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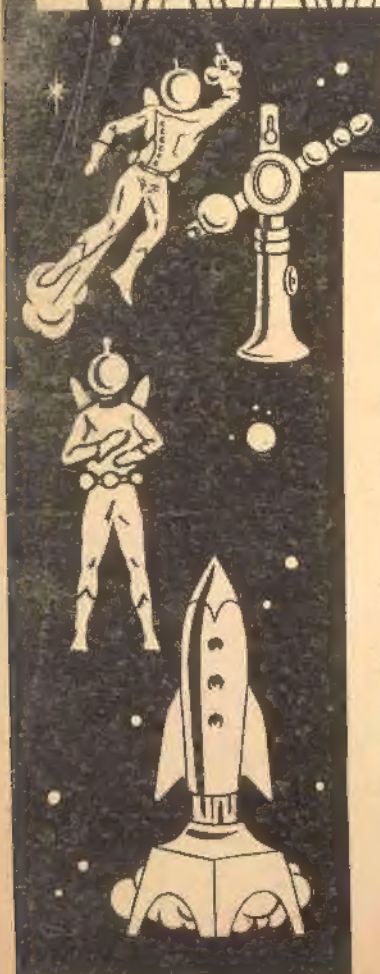

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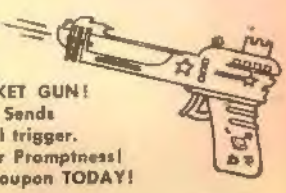

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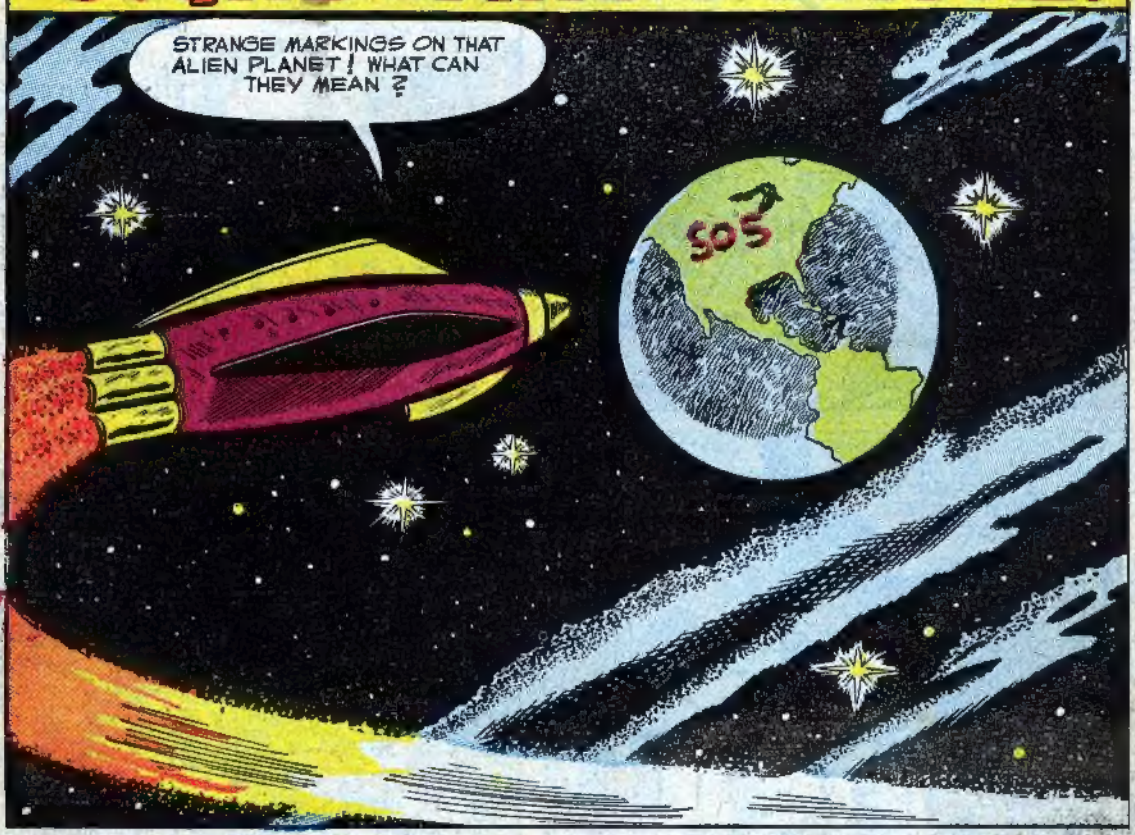
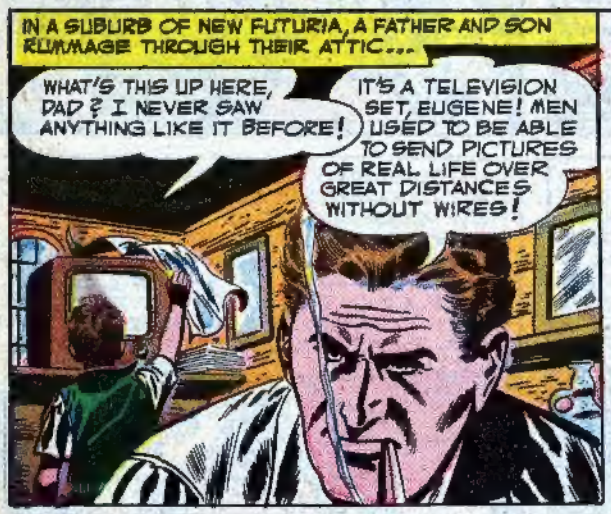
LIKE A FLAMING BEACON IN THE SKY, THE HUGE SPHERE OF EARTH BLAZONED FORTH ITS APPEAL FOR AID--IN GIGANTIC LETTERS CARVED ACROSS THE FACE OF NORTH AMERICA! BUT ONLY ONE HUMAN--OUT OF BILLIONS--COULD SEE THE MESSAGE! A HUMAN WHO LONG BEFORE HAD BEEN DRIVEN AWAY FROM EARTH IN SHAME AND DISGRACE!

SIGNBOARD in SPACE!




IN A SUBURB OF NEW FUTURIA, A FATHER AND SON RUMMAGE THROUGH THEIR ATTIC...
WHAT'S THIS UP HERE, DAD? I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE!
IT'S A TELEVISION SET, EUGENE! MEN USED TO BE ABLE TO SEND PICTURES OF REAL LIFE OVER GREAT DISTANCES WITHOUT WIRES!

SEND...PICTURES THROUGH THE AIR?
WE CAN'T ANYMORE! IT ALL HAPPENED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, SON--A FANTASTIC, DREADFUL EPISODE IN EARTH'S HISTORY! LISTEN--

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"IT ALL GOES BACK TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY--WHEN CHARLES LYTELL WAS A JUNIOR OFFICER IN THE DEFENSE FORCE..."

WE'RE ON PASS, CHARLEY! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE AND HAVE SOME FUN!

NO, I'VE GOT TO WORK! YOU GO AHEAD, GORDON--

"LYTELL TOLD NO ONE OF HIS INVENTION UNTIL HIS PLANS FOR IT WERE COMPLETED..."

THE WEAPON CAN BE BUILT, GENERAL! ALL THAT'S NEEDED IS MONEY, MATERIAL--AND TIME!

A PRACTICAL, LONG-RANGE DEATH RAY? IT'S AMAZING--

BUT UTTERLY OUT OF THE QUESTION! LIEUTENANT LYTELL, I **ORDER** YOU TO DESTROY THOSE PLANS AT ONCE!

DESTROY MY PLANS? BUT, GENERAL--I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

"AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE SUPREME DEFENSE STAFF LATER, LYTELL GOT HIS ANSWER..."

LIEUTENANT, YOUR HORRIBLE INVENTION CAN ONLY LEAD TO WAR! EARTH STANDS FOR PEACE! OUR DEFENSE FORCE STANDS FOR PEACE! ALL OTHER PLANETS IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM ARE OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES!

YES, SIR--

BUT SOME DAY INVADERS FROM ANOTHER GALAXY MIGHT ATTACK US!

YOU DON'T KNOW ELEMENTARY SPACE-SCIENCE, BOY! THAT'S AN IMPOSSIBILITY! THE DISTANCES BETWEEN STARS ARE TOO ENORMOUS TO SPAN WITH LESSER-THAN-LIGHT SPEED!

"BUT SOMETHING--A STUBBORN FAITH IN HIMSELF--PREVENTED THE YOUNG MAN FROM ACCEPTING THE DECISION OF HIS SUPERIORS! HE RESIGNED FROM THE SERVICE..."

YOU'RE A RICH MAN, MR. GANTWELL! YOU CAN FINANCE MY INVENTION!

SURE I CAN--BUT I WON'T! WARS ARE A THING OF THE PAST! AND YOUR DEATH RAY IS USELESS--EXCEPT FOR WAR!

GANTWELL ENTERPRISES

"BUT LYTELL WOULDN'T GIVE UP! WITH HIS OWN FUNDS, HE SET UP A LITTLE PRODUCTION CENTER IN THE WEST..."

WITH SO LITTLE MONEY, IT WILL TAKE YEARS FOR ME TO BUILD MY DEATH RAY! BUT SOMEHOW--SOME DAY--I'LL COMPLETE IT!

"THE TELEVISION NEWSCASTERS--WE GOT ALL THE NEWS THAT WAY THEN--PICKED UP THE EX-OFFICER'S STORY..."

--AND TODAY SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA THIS RENEGADE FROM THE DEFENSE FORCE IS BUILDING HIS MURDEROUS WEAPON!

LYTELL SHOULD BE JAILED!

"THEN--ONE AFTERNOON--A RAGING MOB FOUND AND INVADED THE SMALL DESERT SANCTUARY..."

WRECK IT! SMASH IT! WE WON'T LET ANYONE GET US INTO WAR AGAIN!

ALL MY WORK SO FAR--DESTROYED!

SMASH!

CRASH!

"LYTELL HAD TO FLEE FOR HIS LIFE! IT WAS THEN THAT HE MADE HIS BIG DECISION..."

I--I'LL BE HOUNDED LIKE THIS ALL MY LIFE IF I STAY ON EARTH! I MUST GET AWAY--TO LUNA--WHERE I CAN CONTINUE MY WORK!

"ALONE--A MONTH LATER--HE SET FOOT ON THE BARREN MOON! EARTH WAS GLAD TO GET RID OF HIM..."

THAT'S THE LAST WE'LL SEE OF CHARLES LYTELL, CAPTAIN!

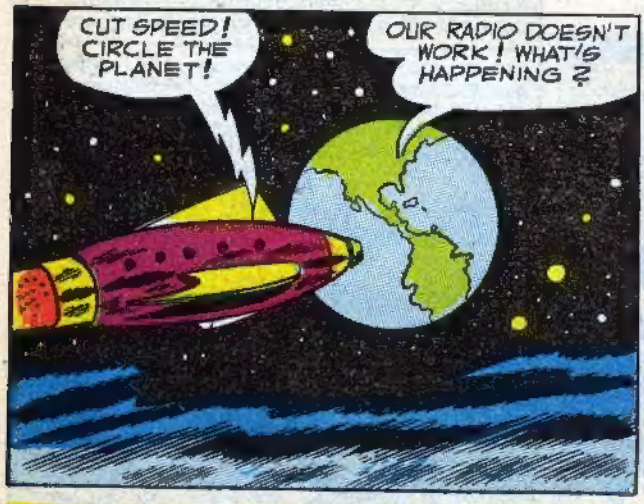
GOOD RIDDANCE! LET HIM BLOW HIMSELF UP HERE WITH HIS KILLER RAY!

"YEARS PASSED--AND THE WORLD HAD ALL BUT FORGOTTEN THE STRANGE EXILE--WHEN THE AWFUL THING HAPPENED..."

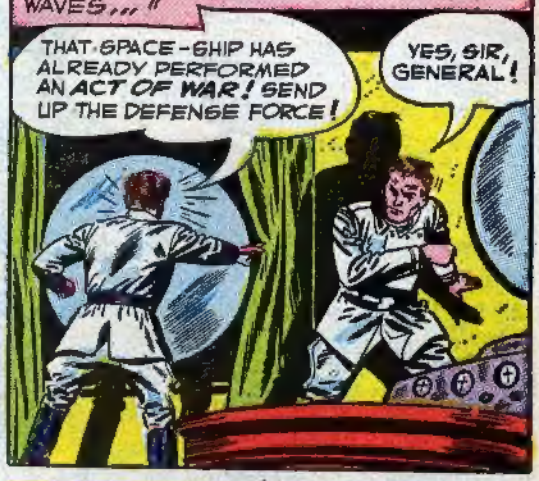
PROFESSOR! SOMETHING IS ENTERING OUR SOLAR SYSTEM! IT--IT--LOOKS LIKE A SPACESHIP!

NONSENSE, WATKINS! NO SHIP COULD REACH US FROM THE OUTER STARS!

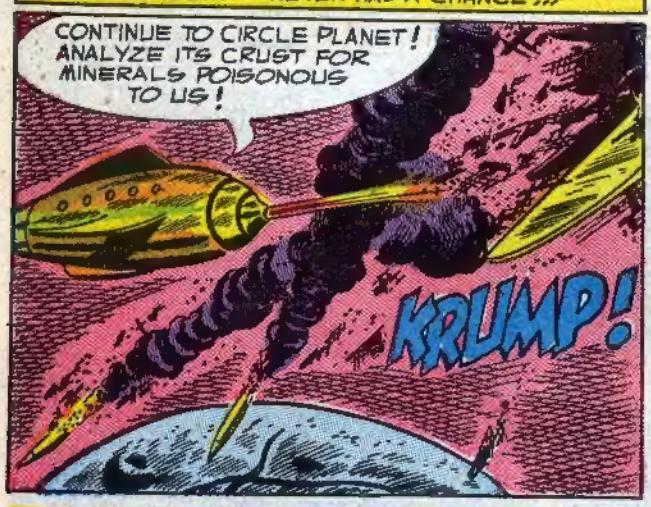
"BUT IT WAS A SHIP... TRAVELING AT A SPEED FAR GREATER THAN LIGHT! AND IN SECONDS... "



"SOME INCREDIBLE FORCE ON THE ALIEN VESSEL HAD DEADENED OUR ATMOSPHERE, CUTTING OFF ALL RADIO AND TELEVISION WAVES... "



"BUT OUR DEFENSE SQUADRON--WITH ITS OLD-FASHIONED GUNS--NEVER HAD A CHANCE... "



"LIKE A GIGANTIC VULTURE, THE HUGE SHIP KEPT CIRCLING US--AND MEANWHILE IN AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE DEFENSE COUNCIL... "

"THEY COULDN'T EVEN CONTACT THE MOON WITHOUT RADIO TRANSMISSION! SUDDENLY, HOWEVER, AN OBSCURE OFFICER SPOKE UP... "

"THAT NIGHT--THOUSANDS OF BULLDOZERS AND TRACTORS WENT INTO FURIOUS ACTIVITY ACROSS A BROAD BELT OF NORTH AMERICA... "

"ON THE MOON, BARELY AN HOUR LATER, AN OLDER, GRAYING CHARLES LYTELL LOOKED TOWARD HIS HOMELAND AND SAW..."

SOS! INTERPLANETARY DISTRESS CALL... FROM EARTH! IT MUST BE AN ALIEN ATTACK LIKE I PREDICTED LONG AGO!

SOS

"HE HAD A WRECKED SHIP THAT HE'D REBUILT--WITH THE DEATH RAY INSIDE IT! BUT HE HADN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TEST IT YET..."

NO TIME TO WASTE TRYING OUT MY WEAPON NOW! LOOKS LIKE--I--I'LL HAVE TO TEST IT IN ACTUAL COMBAT!

SOS

SWOOSH!

"WITHIN MINUTES, LYTELL'S SPACE-CRAFT ROCKETED ACROSS THE VOID TO EARTH..."

ALL ANALYSES SATISFACTORY! WE CAN DESCEND AND TAKE OVER THIS PLANET!

A STRANGE SPACE-SHIP! THAT MUST BE IT!

SOS

"GRIMLY, THE LONE EARTHMAN STROVE TO GET HIS SHIP CLOSE ENOUGH FOR ITS WEAPON TO HAVE EFFECT..."

ANOTHER OF THEIR PUNY VESSELS! BLOW IT OUT OF EXISTENCE!

I'M ALMOST CLOSE ENOUGH--ANOTHER MOMENT--

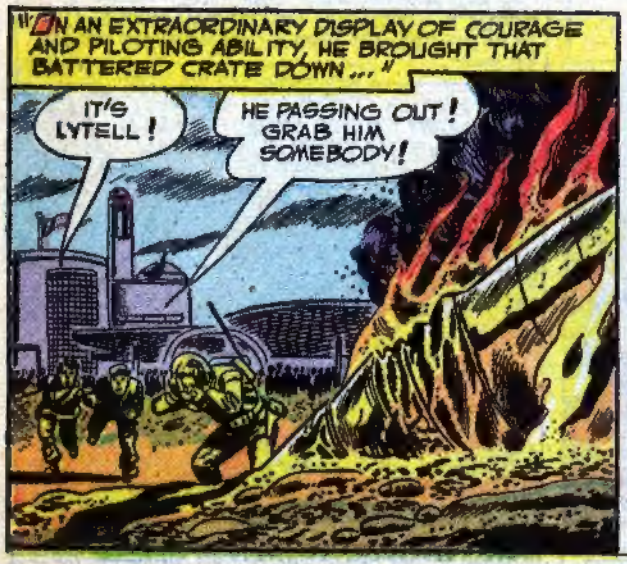
"THE NEXT SECOND--AS LYTELL FIRED--AND SIMULTANEOUSLY WAS HIT BY A VOLLEY OF ULTRA-EXPLOSIVE ROCKETS..."

AAAAAAAH!

BLAAM!

CAN'T SEE! SHIP BURSTING UNDER ME!

KRUMP!


"...IN AN EXTRAORDINARY DISPLAY OF COURAGE AND PILOTING ABILITY, HE BROUGHT THAT BATTERED CRATE DOWN..."
IT'S LYTELL!
HE PASSING OUT! GRAB HIM SOMEBODY!

"WHEN LYTELL AWOKE SOME TIME AFTERWARD, HE WAS A HERO--BUT A PRETTY SICK ONE..."
YOUNG MAN, YOUR ORDERS ARE TO STAY IN BED--UNTIL YOU'RE WELL ENOUGH TO BECOME THE NEW CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE FORCE!
BUT MY WEAPON--DID IT WORK? WHAT HAPPENED?

"DEFENSE COMMANDER LYTELL HAS BEEN TRYING TO RESTORE TELEVISION COMMUNICATION TO OUR ATMOSPHERE FOR YEARS NOW, EUGENE! LET'S SEE--MAYBE WE'LL GET SOME RECEPTION NOW..."
NOTHING! BUT SOMEDAY HE WILL SUCCEED!
OH, DAD! PICTURES THROUGH THE AIR? DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?
THE END

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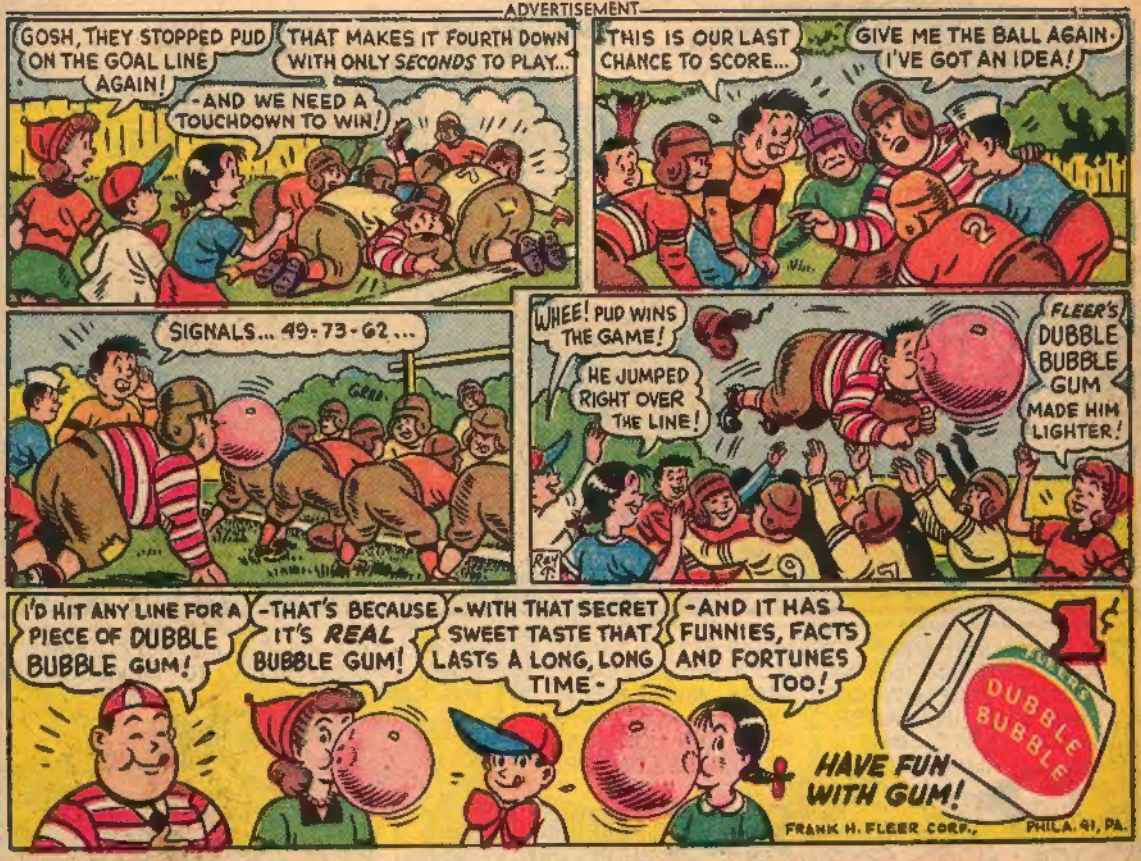
GOSH, THEY STOPPED PUD ON THE GOAL LINE AGAIN!
THAT MAKES IT FOURTH DOWN WITH ONLY SECONDS TO PLAY...
-AND WE NEED A TOUCHDOWN TO WIN!
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO SCORE...
GIVE ME THE BALL AGAIN- I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
SIGNALS... 49-73-62...
GRR!
WHEE! PUD WINS THE GAME!
HE JUMPED RIGHT OVER THE LINE!
FLEER'S DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM MADE HIM LIGHTER!
I'D HIT ANY LINE FOR A PIECE OF DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
-THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S REAL BUBBLE GUM!
-WITH THAT SECRET SWEET TASTE THAT LASTS A LONG, LONG TIME-
-AND IT HAS FUNNIES, FACTS AND FORTUNES TOO!
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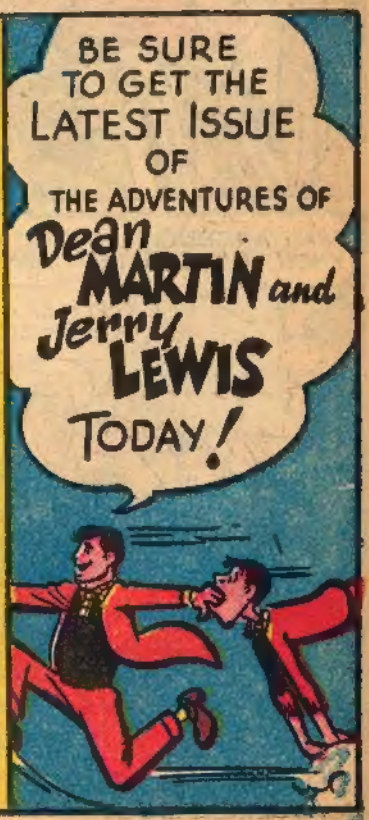
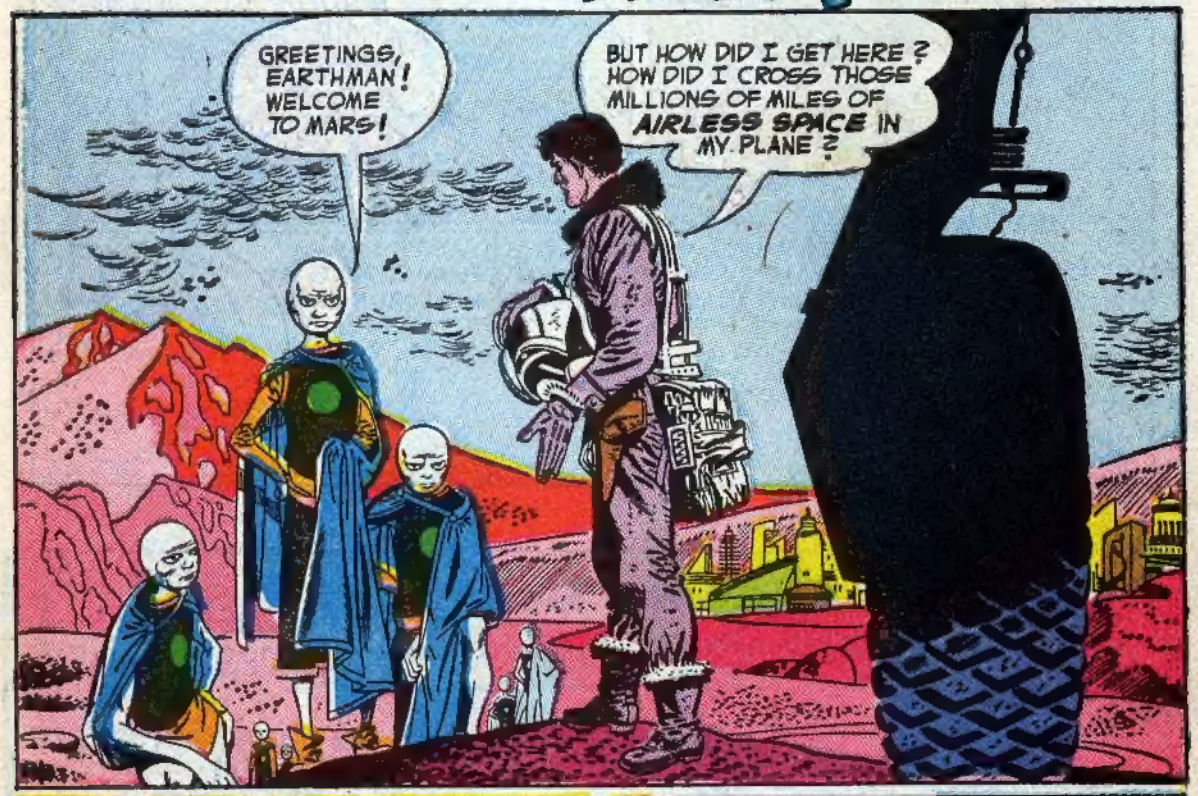
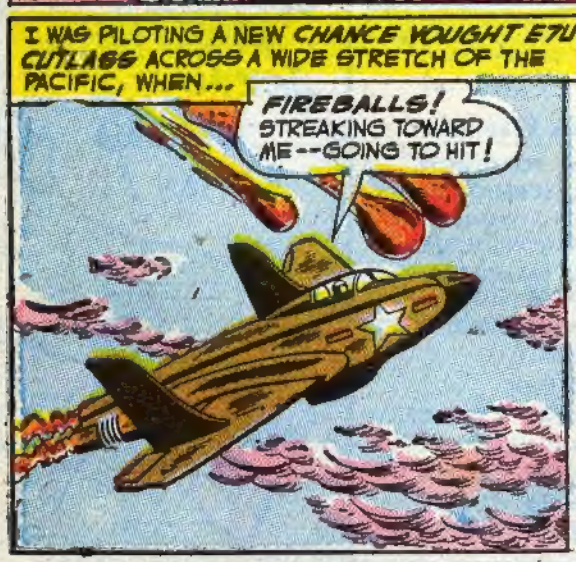
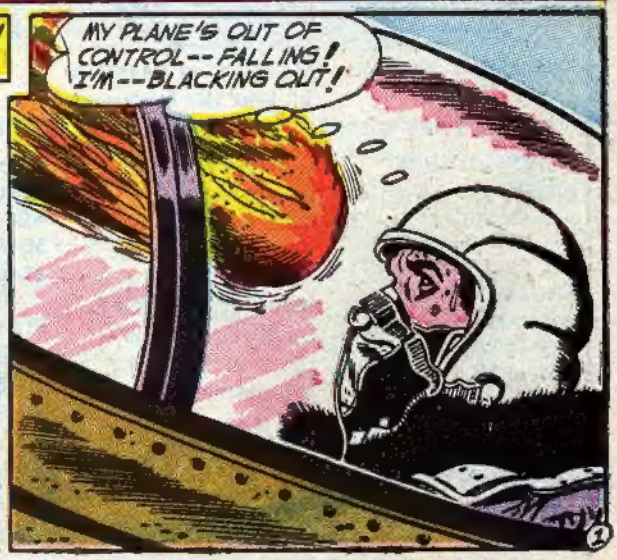


I TOOK THE STRANGEST JOURNEY ANY MAN EVER MADE -- TRAVELING 50,000,000 MILES TO THE PLANET **MARS** -- AND YET I NEVER ACTUALLY LEFT THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE EARTH! BUT BEFORE YOU SCOFF AT MY ASTONISHING FEAT, PLEASE READ MY STORY OF --

The HOTHOUSE WORLD!


GREETINGS, EARTHMAN! WELCOME TO MARS!
BUT HOW DID I GET HERE? HOW DID I CROSS THOSE MILLIONS OF MILES OF AIRLESS SPACE IN MY PLANE?

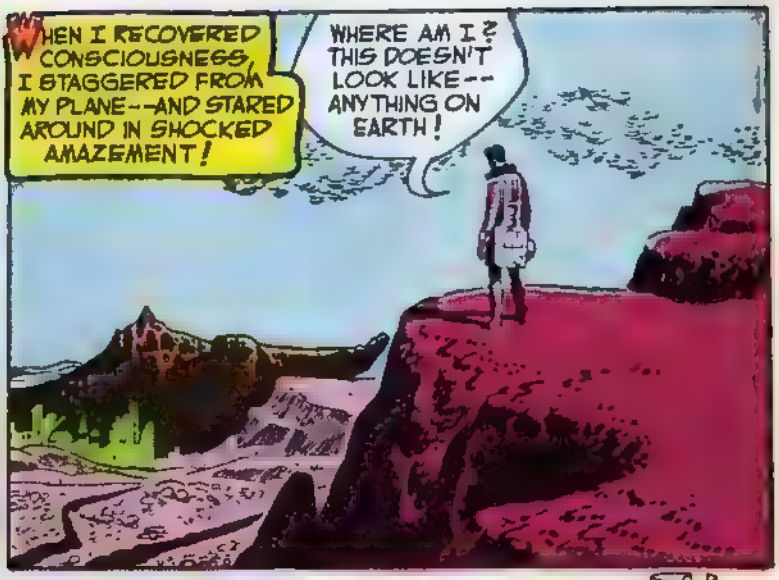

I WAS PILOTING A NEW CHANCE VOUGHT F7U CUTLASS ACROSS A WIDE STRETCH OF THE PACIFIC, WHEN...
FIREBALLS! STREAKING TOWARD ME -- GOING TO HIT!



I LEARNED LATER THAT MY PLANE DRIFTED DOWNWARD LIKE A FEATHER, IN THE CLUTCH OF THE FLOATING FIREBALLS...

WHEN I RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS, I STAGGERED FROM MY PLANE--AND STARED AROUND IN SHOCKED AMAZEMENT!

WHERE AM I? THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE--ANYTHING ON EARTH!



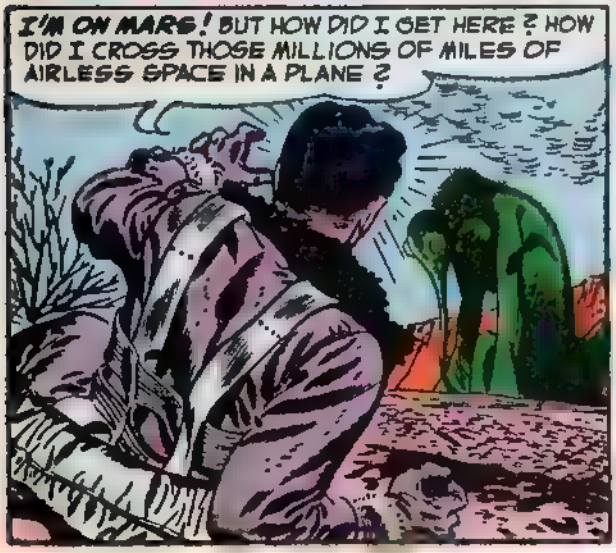
AS I TOOK A FEW STEPS, MY BODY UNEXPECTEDLY LEAPED FORWARD TEN FEET...

I HARDLY WEIGH ANYTHING! GRAVITY IS ALL WRONG HERE! IT'S AS IF I WERE ON--ANOTHER PLANET!

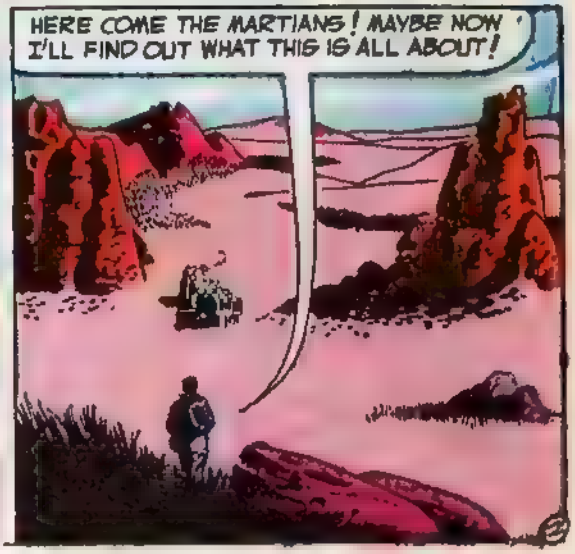
CLUMSILY, I FELL TO THE GROUND...

BUT THAT CAN'T BE! STILL--THIS RED DESERT... THE RUINED CANAL ...THAT UNEARTHLY CITY IN THE DISTANCE ...ADD UP TO ONLY ONE THING!

I'M ON MARS! BUT HOW DID I GET HERE? HOW DID I CROSS THOSE MILLIONS OF MILES OF AIRLESS SPACE IN A PLANE?

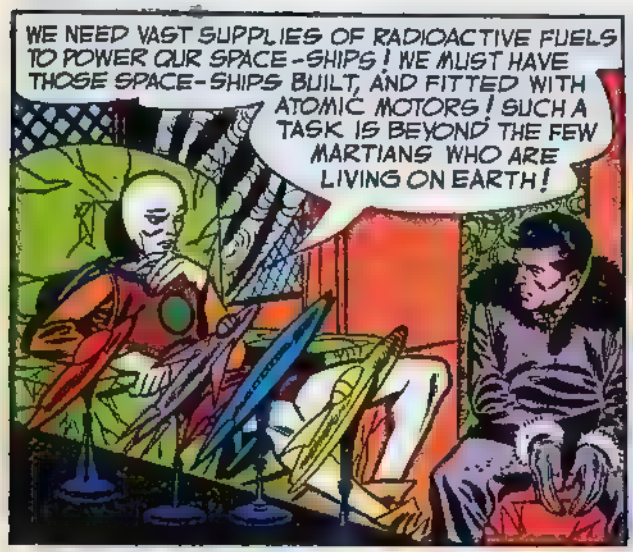


HERE COME THE MARTIANS! MAYBE NOW I'LL FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!



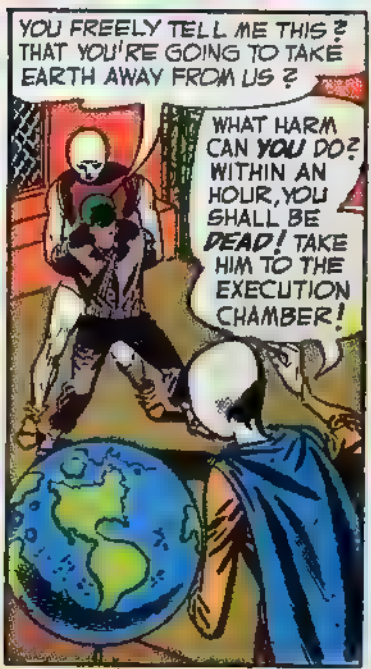
GREETINGS, EARTHMAN! WELCOME TO MARS--ON EARTH!
ON EARTH? I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND! ALL THIS TERRAIN, THE LACK OF NORMAL GRAVITY...
YOUR REACTION IS TYPICAL! NO EARTHMAN EVER UNDERSTANDS! HE'S TOO STUPID! WE HAVE BEEN HERE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS--TRYING TO EDUCATE YOU PEOPLE!
"FOR CENTURIES, OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE SECRETLY SUGGESTED NEW IDEAS TO YOUR BRAINIEST MEN! LEONARDO DA VINCI, FOR EXAMPLE..."
LATELY, MY MIND HAS BEEN FILLED WITH ASTONISHING NEW IDEAS! SHIPS THAT FLY THROUGH THE AIR, WEAPONS THAT SHOOT FIRE!
THERE WERE OTHERS--ROGER BACON! NEWTON! EDISON! FOR CENTURIES, WE'VE BEEN HELPING THEM DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE COSMOS! BUT YOUR PUNY MINDS HAVE BEEN SO SLOW TO LEARN!
WE WENT THROUGH THE CITY, DOWN AN INCLINED RAMP, TOWARD A GREAT CRYPT...
"MANY EONS AGO, THE ATMOSPHERE OF MARS BEGAN TO DISSIPATE AND ESCAPE INTO SPACE..."
EACH YEAR, IT GROWS HARDER TO BREATHE!
SOON THERE WILL BE NO MORE AIR! WE SHALL ALL BE DEAD!

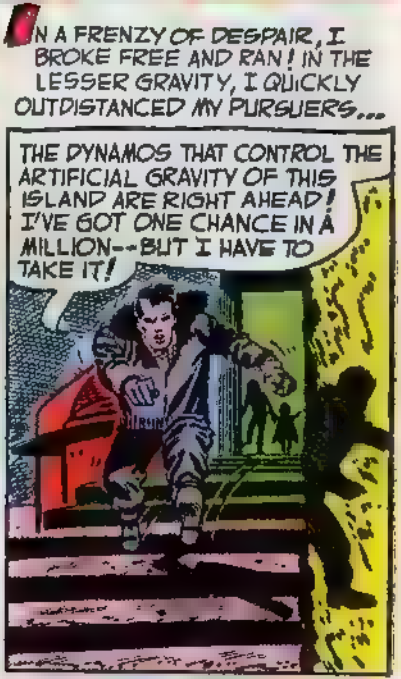
"WE CHEATED DEATH BY PRESERVING OUR PEOPLE IN AIRTIGHT SLEEPING CHAMBERS, WHILE OUR SCIENTISTS SOUGHT A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM...
"WITH THE FEW REMAINING RADIO-ACTIVE FUELS LEFT TO US, WE BUILT A GREAT SPACE-SHIP, AND WITH OUR FINEST SCIENTISTS IN IT, BLASTED OFF FOR EARTH!"
MARS CAN NEVER AGAIN SUPPORT HUMAN LIFE! EARTH IS A YOUNG PLANET--RICH IN OXYGEN AND CHEMICAL ELEMENTS...
"BUT EARTH'S GREATER GRAVITY AND ATMOSPHERE ALMOST PROVED A DEATH TRAP! FINALLY, ON THIS LONELY ISLAND, WE BUILT A DUPLICATE LANDSCAPE OF MARS..."
HERE WE SHALL LIVE, ON EARTH! EVERY 24 HOURS WE MUST RETURN TO RE-ACCLIMATE OUR BODIES TO THE AIR OF MARS!
ONLY IN THAT MANNER CAN WE SECRETLY GO FORTH FROM HERE TO TEACH THE MEN OF EARTH!
"TO PREVENT THE BITTER DESPAIR OF HOMESICKNESS, WE CONVERTED THIS ISLAND INTO A 'HOTHOUSE WORLD' AS MUCH LIKE OUR HOME PLANET AS POSSIBLE..."
JUST AS THE KEDDARAH CANAL RUNS ACROSS MARS, SO THIS REPLICA OF IT RUNS ACROSS MARS-ON-EARTH!
"FAR BELOW US, MIGHTY DYNAMOS ALTER EARTH GRAVITY TO THE LESSER GRAVITY OF MARS..."
RRRRRR
I'M STILL CONFUSED! YOU'VE MADE OUTCASTS OF YOURSELVES TO STAY ON EARTH AND TEACH US! BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO LEARN? AND--WHY?

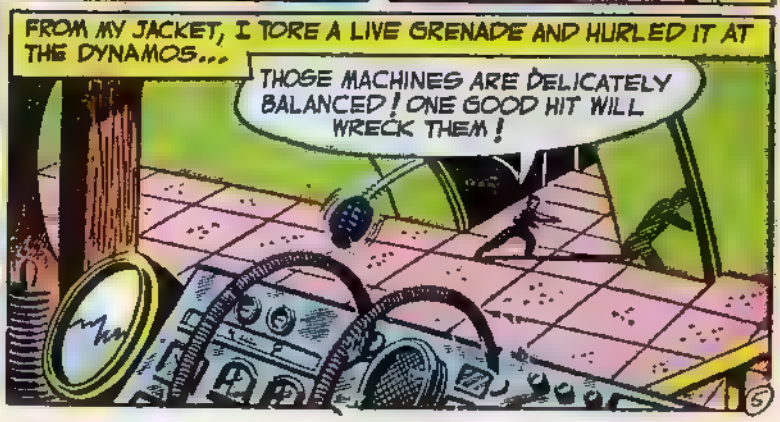

WE NEED VAST SUPPLIES OF RADIOACTIVE FUELS TO POWER OUR SPACE-SHIPS! WE MUST HAVE THOSE SPACE-SHIPS BUILT, AND FITTED WITH ATOMIC MOTORS! SUCH A TASK IS BEYOND THE FEW MARTIANS WHO ARE LIVING ON EARTH!

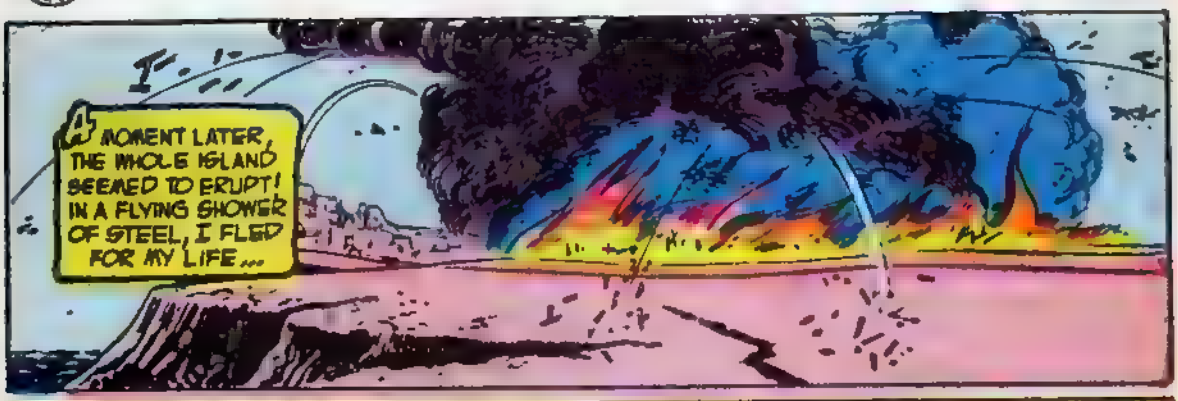
SINCE WE CANNOT BUILD THEM, YOU EARTH PEOPLE MUST BUILD THEM FOR US! THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TEACH YOU! YOU HAVE DISCOVERED THE ATOM BOMB, THANKS TO US! SOON NOW, YOU WILL CONSTRUCT AN ATOMIC MOTOR!

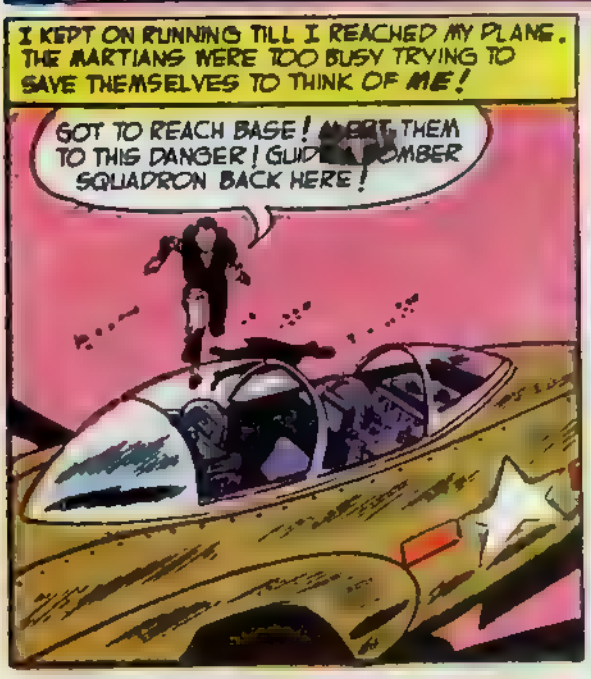
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, SHIPS PILOTED BY MARTIANS WILL LEAVE EARTH, TO RETURN TO MARS! WE SHALL WAKE OUR SLEEPING PEOPLE AND BRING THEM BACK TO EARTH, WHERE THEY SHALL LIVE ONCE AGAIN IN ALL THEIR ANCIENT GLORY!

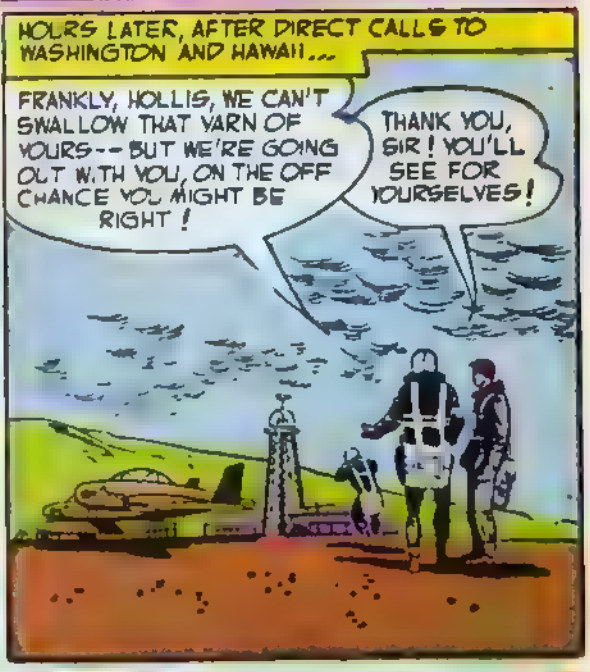

YOU FREELY TELL ME THIS? THAT YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE EARTH AWAY FROM US?
WHAT HARM CAN YOU DO? WITHIN AN HOUR, YOU SHALL BE DEAD! TAKE HIM TO THE EXECUTION CHAMBER!

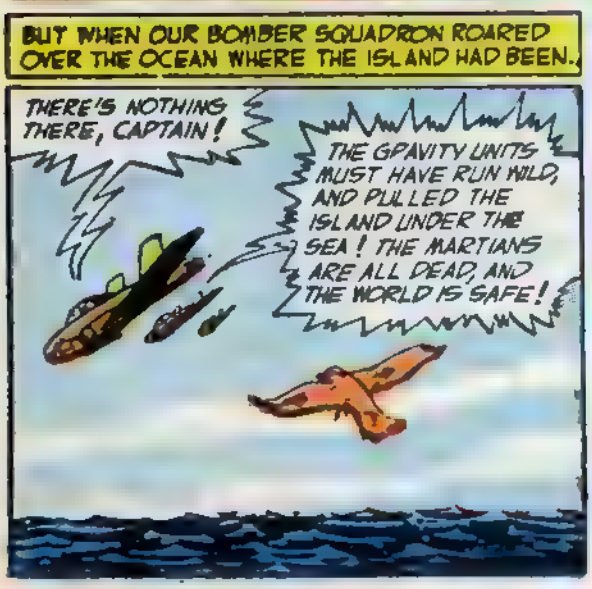

IN A FRENZY OF DESPAIR, I BROKE FREE AND RAN! IN THE LESSER GRAVITY, I QUICKLY OUTDISTANCED MY PURSUERS...
THE DYNAMOS THAT CONTROL THE ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY OF THIS ISLAND ARE RIGHT AHEAD! I'VE GOT ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION--BUT I HAVE TO TAKE IT!

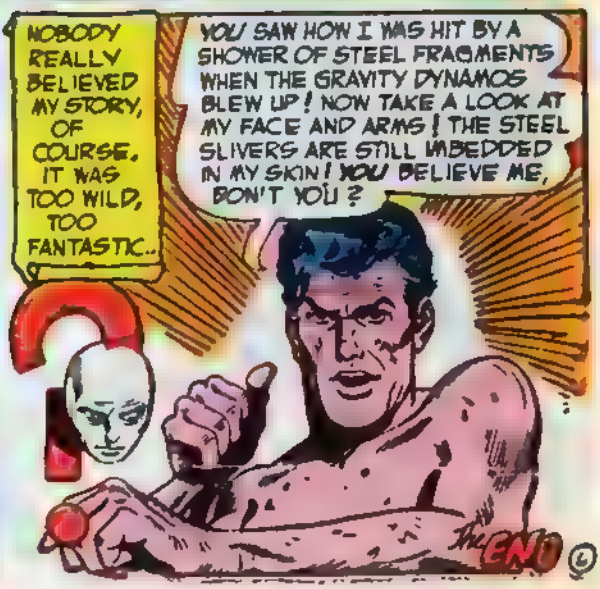

FROM MY JACKET, I TORE A LIVE GRENADE AND HURLED IT AT THE DYNAMOS...
THOSE MACHINES ARE DELICATELY BALANCED! ONE GOOD HIT WILL WRECK THEM!


A MOMENT LATER, THE WHOLE ISLAND SEEMED TO ERUPT! IN A FLYING SHOWER OF STEEL, I FLED FOR MY LIFE...


I KEPT ON RUNNING TILL I REACHED MY PLANE. THE MARTIANS WERE TOO BUSY TRYING TO SAVE THEMSELVES TO THINK OF ME!
GOT TO REACH BASE! ALERT THEM TO THIS DANGER! GUIDE BOMBER SQUADRON BACK HERE!


HOURS LATER, AFTER DIRECT CALLS TO WASHINGTON AND HAWAII...
FRANKLY, HOLLIS, WE CAN'T SWALLOW THAT YARN OF YOURS -- BUT WE'RE GOING OUT WITH YOU, ON THE OFF CHANCE YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT!
THANK YOU, SIR! YOU'LL SEE FOR YOURSELVES!


BUT WHEN OUR BOMBER SQUADRON ROARED OVER THE OCEAN WHERE THE ISLAND HAD BEEN..
THERE'S NOTHING THERE, CAPTAIN!
THE GRAVITY UNITS MUST HAVE RUN WILD, AND PULLED THE ISLAND UNDER THE SEA! THE MARTIANS ARE ALL DEAD, AND THE WORLD IS SAFE!


NOBODY REALLY BELIEVED MY STORY, OF COURSE. IT WAS TOO WILD, TOO FANTASTIC..
YOU SAW HOW I WAS HIT BY A SHOWER OF STEEL FRAGMENTS WHEN THE GRAVITY DYNAMOS BLEW UP! NOW TAKE A LOOK AT MY FACE AND ARMS! THE STEEL SLIVERS ARE STILL IMBEDDED IN MY SKIN! YOU BELIEVE ME, DON'T YOU?
THE END

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Our ARMY at WAR
WE'VE STILL GOT TIME, MEN! FIRE FOUR!
UNDERSEA RAIDER
EYES OF THE ARTILLERY
FATAL CHOICE
GANG BUSTERS
HEAR NEW ADVENTURES OF AND RADIO'S FAVORITE
OKAY BOYS CLEAN THE PLACE OUT! THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP US BUT THIS WOUNDED COP!
YES HE WAS JUST A WOUNDED COP - BUT HE STILL HAD HIS NIGHTSTICK!
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The TOY EARTH!

WHO KNOWS HOW THE UNIVERSE WILL LOOK WHEN ASTRONOMERS GET RID OF THE OPTICAL DISTORTIONS CAUSED BY THE ATMOSPHERE ? IT MIGHT BE FAR VASTER THAN OUR PRESENT CONCEPTS ! OR IT MIGHT PROVE UNEXPECTEDLY SMALL--A MERE PLAYTHING FOR A CHILD OF SOME RACE OF GIANTS ! SEE FOR YOURSELF AS THE FIRST SPACE VOYAGERS PIERCE THE OUTER LIMITS !

ON A ROCKET-FIELD NEAR WHITE SANDS, NEW MEXICO, HISTORY IS IN THE MAKING AS THE FIRST MANNED SPACE-SHIP IS READIED FOR TAKE-OFF...

THINK SHE'LL REALLY GET OUT THERE, JOE ?

SHE'LL MAKE IT OKAY ! THE BIG TRICK WILL BE BRINGING HER BACK !

A FEW MINUTES BEFORE TAKE-OFF, THE GRIM-FACED CREW OF DISTINGUISHED PASSENGERS GOES ABOARD...

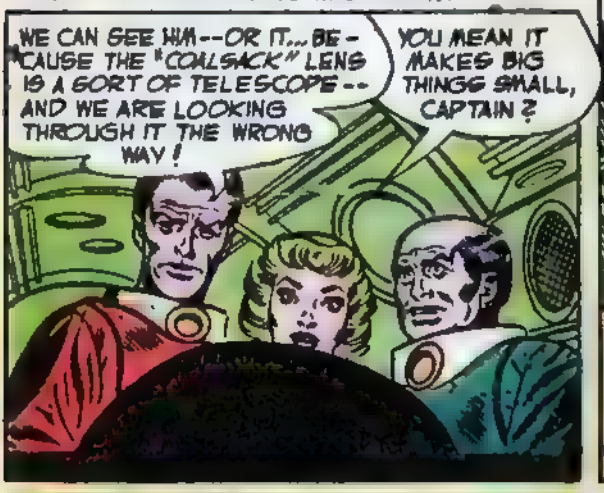
HERE WE GO, MATES--FIFTEEN MINUTES TO ZERO...

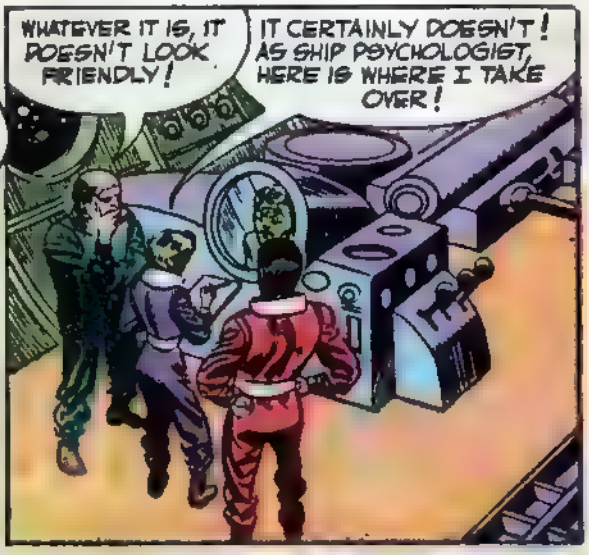
HUMAN GUINEA PIGS--THAT'S US !

READY AT LAST AND LOCKED IN THEIR BERTHS, THE FIRST HUMAN SPACE-TRAVELERS AWAIT THE TAKE-OFF BLAST...
CAPT. CORD, MAYBE I OUGHT TO DOUBLE-CHECK THE AFT ENGINES!
TOO LATE, RYAN... HERE WE GO!
SLOWLY AT FIRST, THEN BULLET-SWIFT, THE HUGE SPACE-SHIP RISES FROM ITS CRADLE...
BAROOOM!
WITHIN THE NOW GRAVITY-LESS SHIP, THE GALLANT CREW GETS ABOUT ITS DUTIES...
GOT US SET TO CLEAR THE MOON AND CIRCLE IT, MANDERS?
RIGHT, CAPTAIN, BUT I'LL CHECK WITH THE TELESCOPE AS SOON AS I PUT THE MAGNETIZERS ON MY SHOES!
SURE IS HANDY HAVING THE MAGNETIZERS FOR OUR SHOES, DR. LOUISE... OTHERWISE WE'D AIMLESSLY DRIFT AROUND THE GRAVITY-LESS SHIP!
AS SHIP'S PSYCHOLOGIST I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN THE MEDICAL EFFECTS, IF ANY, ON THE HUMAN BODY!
SECONDS LATER, LIEUTENANT MANDERS SHOUTS IN SURPRISE AS HE VIEWS AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT...
CAPT. CORD... I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! TAKE A LOOK!
AMAZING--ALL THE PLANETS AND STARS SEEM TO BE CONNECTED--AS THOUGH THEY WERE COGS OF SOME GIANT MACHINE!

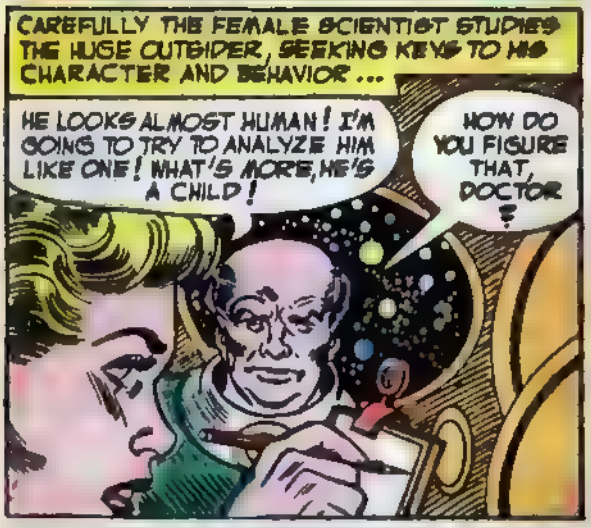
SHAKEN BY HIS DISCOVERY, MANDERS MOVES BACK TO LET THE OTHERS LOOK...
GREAT SCOTT, MANDERS! THE UNIVERSE SEEMS TO END IN A BARRIER JUST BEYOND THE MOON! IT'S AS THOUGH WE WERE HEADING TOWARDS A GIANT WALL! WE'LL HAVE TO CHANGE OUR COURSE!
AND SO, TO AVOID COLLISION WITH THE MYSTERIOUS COSMIC WALL, THE SHIP VEERS SHARPLY TO THE LEFT...
CAPTAIN, THE BLACK NEBULA CALLED THE "COALSACK" LIES DIRECTLY AHEAD!
FROM HERE, MANDERS, IT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT LENS! I'M AFRAID, FOLKS... WE'RE UP AGAINST THE UNKNOWN! SHALL WE TURN BACK TO EARTH?
DESPITE THE STRANGE BARRIER, THE SPACE-PIONEERS VOTE TO CONTINUE THE FLIGHT...
RUN HER RIGHT UP UNDER THE "SACK" AND HOLD HER THERE, RYAN!
AYE, AYE, SIR--I'LL HOLD HER IF I HAVE TO BLOW OUT OUR JETS!
A VETERAN ROCKETMAN, ENGINEER RYAN PROVES AS GOOD AS HIS WORD...
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, MANDERS?
HARD TO TELL AS YET, CAPTAIN!
SLOWLY THE STRANGE SHAPE GROWS CLEARER, AND AN AMAZING VIEW COMES INTO FOCUS...
CAPTAIN, EITHER I'M DREAMING OR I'M SPACE-SICK, BUT IT'S A LIVING BEING... A GIANT!

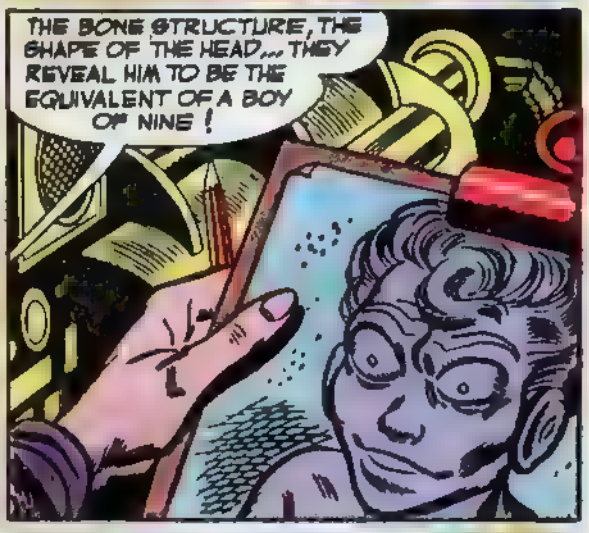
AWE AND FEAR GRIP THE PASSENGERS AS THEY STUDY THE BAFFLING MYSTERY...

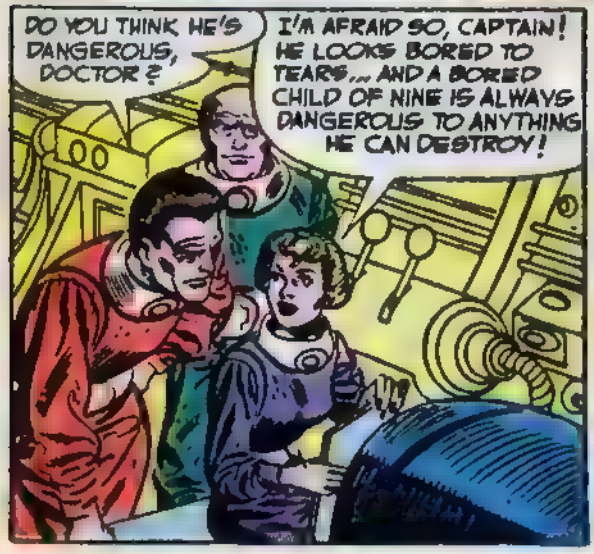

WE CAN SEE HIM--OR IT... BECAUSE THE "COALSACK" LENS IS A SORT OF TELESCOPE--AND WE ARE LOOKING THROUGH IT THE WRONG WAY!
YOU MEAN IT MAKES BIG THINGS SMALL, CAPTAIN?

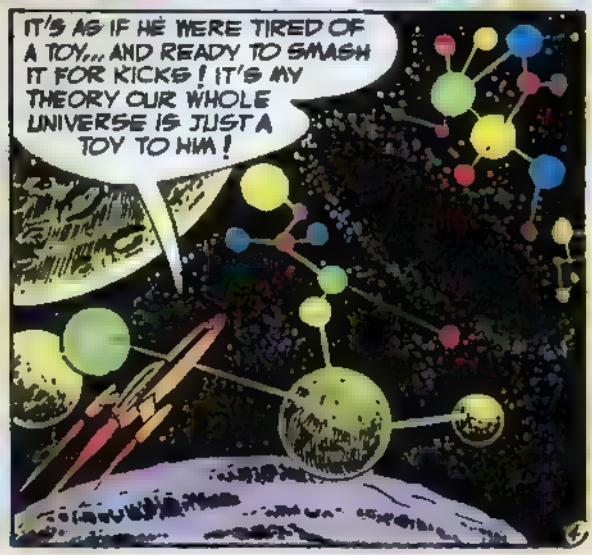


CAREFULLY THE FEMALE SCIENTIST STUDIES THE HUGE OUTSIDER, SEEKING KEYS TO HIS CHARACTER AND BEHAVIOR...






DO YOU THINK HE'S DANGEROUS, DOCTOR?
I'M AFRAID SO, CAPTAIN! HE LOOKS BORED TO TEARS... AND A BORED CHILD OF NINE IS ALWAYS DANGEROUS TO ANYTHING HE CAN DESTROY!



ISN'T THERE SOME WAY OF CHANGING HIS MIND? WE CAN'T IDLY STAND BY AND LET HIM DESTROY THE SOLAR SYSTEM!
NOT UNLESS WE PROVIDE HIM WITH SOME NEW NOVELTY TO DIVERT HIS INTEREST! OF COURSE, HIS TIME AND OURS ARE DIFFERENT... IT MIGHT TAKE HIM THOUSANDS OF OUR YEARS TO DESTROY OR HARM THE UNIVERSE! OR IT MIGHT HAPPEN TOMORROW!
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO TO AMUSE HIM? THE UNIVERSE IS SO LIMITED!
ALL WE HAVE IS THE SUN, THE EARTH, AND THE MOON...
THAT'S IT--THE MOON! WE'VE GOT THE ATOMIC POWER TO DO IT!
DO WHAT, CAPTAIN?
STAND BY FOR THE BIGGEST FIREWORKS SHOW IN HISTORY, DOCTOR!
MANDERS, HEAR THIS--ALTER DIRECTION TO COLLISION COURSE WITH THE MOON!
RELUCTANTLY, THE ASTROGATOR OBEYS THE STRANGE ORDER..
I HOPE THE CAPTAIN KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!
YOU AND ME BOTH, RYAN!

AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT THE SPACE-TRAVELERS TAKE TO THEIR SHIP'S LIFE-BOAT...
WELL, HERE'S HOPING IT WORKS!
WHAT A BLAST THIS IS GOING TO BE!
UNERRINGLY THE SPACE-SHIP FINDS ITS MARK IN ONE OF LUNA'S MIGHTY CRATERS...
LOOK, CAPTAIN! THERE SHE BLOWS!
AS THE LIFE-BOAT LANDS AT WHITE SANDS, FRAGMENTS OF THE MOON, SHATTERED BY THE ATOMIC BLAST, FORM A SPECTACULAR RING SIMILAR TO THE COSMIC BAND THAT ENCOMPASSES THE PLANET SATURN...
REMEMBER, WE MUST REPORT THIS AS AN ACCIDENT! THE TRUTH WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR HUMANITY!
WE'VE ALL PLEDGED OUR SILENCE, CAPTAIN!
TO AN APPALLED WORLD, CAPTAIN CORD MAKES HIS REPORT...
...AND SO, UNAVOIDABLY, WE HAD TO ABANDON SHIP AND LET IT CRASH ONTO THE MOON LEST IT COLLIDE WITH EARTH! THE NEW RING IN THE SKY IS THE RESULT OF THAT EXPLOSION!
A YEAR LATER, UNDER A STRANGE, RING-WASHED SKY, ANOTHER SPACE-SHIP TAKES OFF WITH THE SAME CREW...
WELL, WE'LL SOON KNOW NOW WHETHER IT WORKED!
ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE!
WHEN THE SUPER-SHIP REACHES THE "COALSACK" LENS...
OUR PLAN WORKED ALL RIGHT! WE'VE DIVERTED OUR GIANT FRIEND WITH A NEW COSMIC TOY--THAT SATURN-LIKE RING WE CREATED! BUT WHAT WILL OUR SONG WRITERS DO NOW WITHOUT A MOON?
DON'T WORRY! THERE ARE PLENTY OF RHYMES FOR RING...AND THE WORD ITSELF IS EVEN MORE ROMANTIC!
THE END

MYSTERIES in SPACE...

IF OXYGEN WERE PRESENT ON THE MOON, WHAT COLOR WOULD THE MOON APPEAR TO US ON EARTH?...

THE MOON WOULD CHANGE FROM ITS PRESENT GREYISH COLOR TO **RED** -- BECAUSE THE GREY-BROWN ROCKS ON THE MOON WOULD BECOME OXIDIZED...

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF ONE STAR COLLIDING WITH ANOTHER STAR?...

ACCORDING TO JEANS, STAR COLLISIONS OCCUR ONLY ONCE IN 600,000 MILLION YEARS! TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, NOT MORE THAN ONE STAR IN 60 MILLION IS LIKELY TO COLLIDE WITH ANOTHER STAR.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO A BEAM OF LIGHT SETTING OUT THROUGH SPACE FROM EARTH AT THE RATE OF 186,000 MILES A SECOND -- ASSUMING THE TRUTH OF EINSTEIN'S THEORY THAT THE UNIVERSE IS NOT INFINITE?...

IT WOULD DESCRIBE A GREAT COSMIC CIRCLE AND RETURN TO ITS STARTING POINT AFTER A LITTLE MORE THAN 200 BILLION EARTH YEARS...

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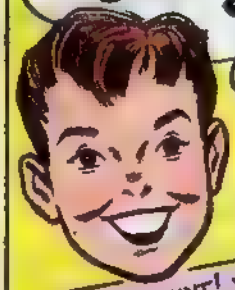

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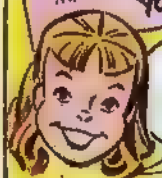

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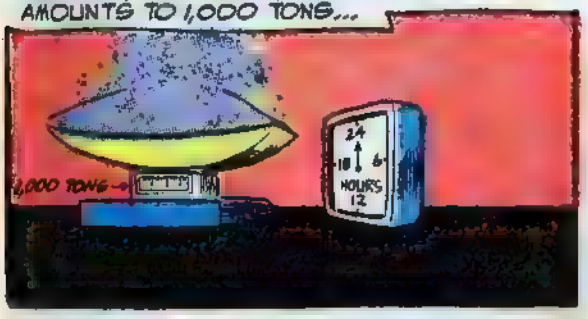
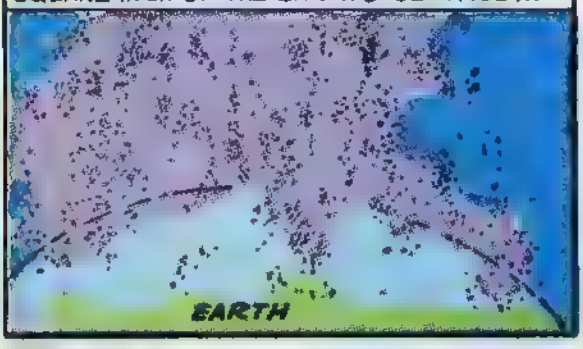
MICRO-METEORS

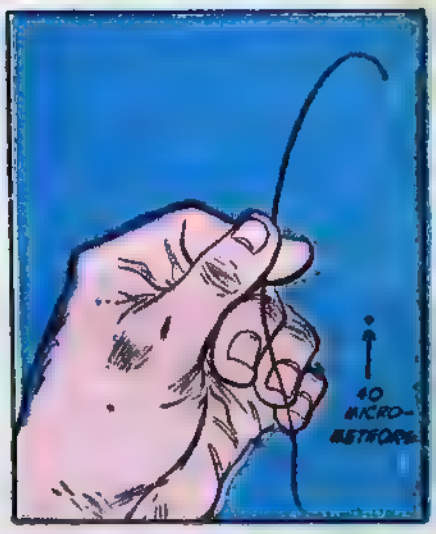
MOST OF THE MILLIONS OF METEORS THAT ENTER THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE EVERY DAY FROM OUTER SPACE ARE TOO SMALL TO BE SEEN, YET THEIR TOTAL DAILY WEIGHT AMOUNTS TO 1,000 TONS...



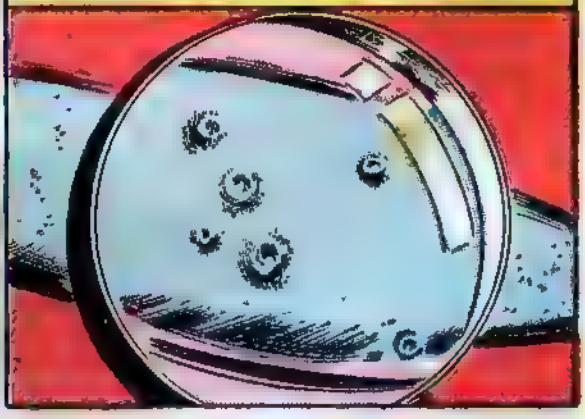
WITHIN TWO DAYS AT MOST, ONE OF THESE MICROSCOPIC METEORS WILL FALL ON EACH SQUARE INCH OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE...



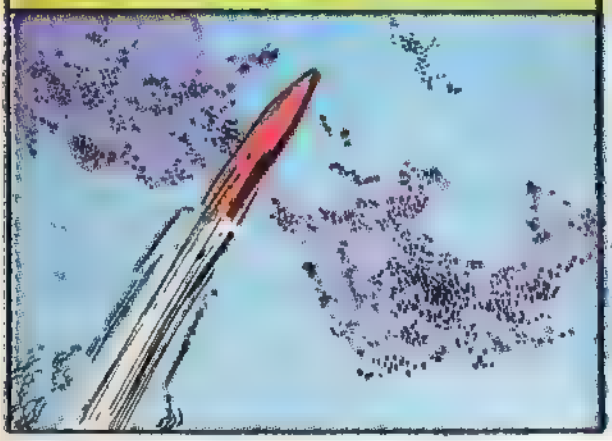
TO GIVE ONE AN IDEA OF THE SIZE OF THESE MICRO-METEORS, 40 OF THEM PILED END ON END WOULD EQUAL THE THICKNESS OF A HUMAN HAIR...



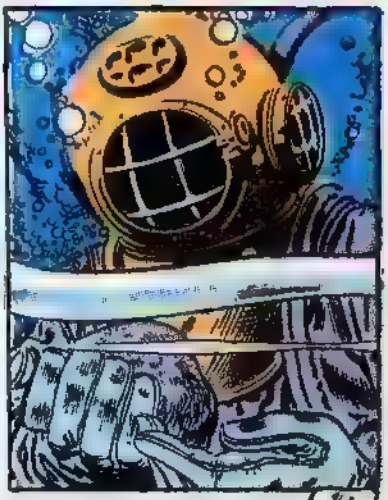
EXPERIMENTAL ROCKETS RETURNING TO EARTH HAVE THEIR POLISHED SURFACES PITTED WITH SMALL CRATERS AS A RESULT OF METEOR COLLISIONS IN THE ATMOSPHERE...



HIGH-FREQUENCY RADIO EQUIPMENT INSTALLED IN V-2 ROCKETS HAVE RECORDED MICRO-METEOR COLLISIONS EVERY 2.2 SECONDS...



THE NICKEL CONTENT OF DEPOSITS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN IS SO MUCH GREATER THAN CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THE GENERAL COMPOSITION OF THE EARTH, THAT IT CAN BE ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY BY THE FALLING OF BILLIONS OF METEORS INTO THE OCEAN WATERS...



The End

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PLUTO?

TRUE-FALSE

(Below are 10 astronomical "facts" about the planet Pluto. Select the ones that are completely correct and answer *true*. If you spot one that is all or partly erroneous, answer *false*. For each number correctly answered, credit yourself with 4 points.)

1. The discovery of the planet Pluto was made on January 21, 1930—but the announcement was withheld till March 30, 1930, so it could be made in conjunction with the anniversaries of the discovery of Uranus and the birth of the astronomer Percival Lowell.

2. Before 1930, two American astronomers, Percival Lowell and William Pickering, working independently, had attempted the difficult task of predicting the position of the then undiscovered planet.

3. Pickering was "robbed" of the honor of discovering Pluto in 1919 because of a flaw in the photographic plate and the nearness of Pluto to a bright star whose image hid it.

4. Fortunately, Lowell lived to see his prediction of Pluto's existence verified—and accordingly, the planet was named in his honor—Pluto being identified with the initials of Percival Lowell's name.

5. Although Pluto is the most distant planet from the sun, its orbit occasionally comes within the orbit of Neptune and thus is sometimes closer to the sun than Neptune.

6. The orbits of Pluto and Neptune are so inclined that there is a danger the two planets may some day collide.

7. Pluto's orbit has the least inclination and eccentricity of any other planet.

8. Because Pluto has no satellites, its mass is extremely difficult to determine.

9. However, from its size, astronomers estimate that Pluto has a mass not in excess of 0.1 times the Earth's mass.

10. There is no way of knowing whether or not Pluto is the last planet in the solar system.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

(Herewith are presented 10 more facts about the planet Pluto. However, only *one* of a trio of statements is correct. Make your choice and take 2 points for each alternate correctly answered.)

1. Pluto has the appearance of a small (a) greenish, (b) bluish, (c) yellowish star.

2. The diameter of Pluto has been deter-

mined to be about 3600 miles, which makes it closest to the size of (a) Mars, (b) Venus, (c) Earth.

3. When nearest the sun, Pluto is 35,000,000 miles inside the orbit of (a) Uranus, (b) Neptune, (c) Jupiter.

4. Pluto is too small to show a detectable (a) moon, (b) atmosphere, (c) disk.

5. Pluto takes 248 (a) months, (b) years, (c) centuries to make a single trip around the sun.

6. In every complete revolution about the sun, Pluto crosses the orbit plane of Neptune (a) one, (b) two, (c) five times.

7. Previous to its planetary discovery in 1930, Pluto had been identified by earlier observers as a (a) comet, (b) meteor, (c) star.

8. At the times of its discovery, Pluto was in the constellation Gemini, but is now in the constellation (a) Aries, (b) Cancer, (c) Sagittarius.

9. Pluto is (a) 40, (b) 400, (c) 4000 times too faint to be seen without the aid of a telescope.

10. If the Earth is considered to be one astronomical unit distant from the sun, then Pluto is (a) 40, (b) 400, (c) 4000 astronomical units away.

MISSING WORD

(Supply the missing word to complete the following facts about Pluto. Each word correctly given is worth 5 points.)

1. The circumstances leading to the discovery of Pluto were reminiscent to those of the discovery of the planet _____.

2. Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory as a tiny speck on a _____ plate.

3. After its initial discovery, Pluto's _____ was carefully observed for several weeks to make certain its planetary nature.

4. Except for its _____, Pluto is apparently much more like the planets Earth and Mars, than its closer companions, Uranus and Neptune.

5. Pluto appears in the night sky as a very faint _____ of about the fifteenth magnitude.

MATCHING COLUMNS

(In the first column are five astronomical distances pertaining to Pluto. In column two are listed their "equivalents," but in incorrect order. Tag the right number to the right distance and take 3 points for each of the correctly joined terms.)

1. 3600 miles	A. Closest approach to nearest planet
2. 240,000,000 miles	B. Distance from Earth
3. 877,000,000 miles	C. Average distance from nearest planet
4. 3,577,000,000 miles	D. Diameter of Pluto
5. 3,670,000,000 miles	E. Distance from the Sun

ANSWERS

True-False: 1, true. 2, true. 3, true. 4, false. (Lowell died in 1916. The planet is named after Pluto, god of the underworld.) 5, true. 6, false. (The closest they ever approach each other is 240 million miles.) 7, false. (It has the *greatest* inclination and eccentricity.) 8, true. 9, true. 10, true.

Multiple Choice: 1, c. 2, a. 3, b. 4, c. 5, b. 6, b. 7, c. 8, b. 9, c. 10, a.

Missing Word: 1, Neptune. 2, photographic. 3, motion. 4, temperature. 5, star.

Matching Columns: 1-D, 2-A, 3-C, 4-B, 5-E.

RATINGS

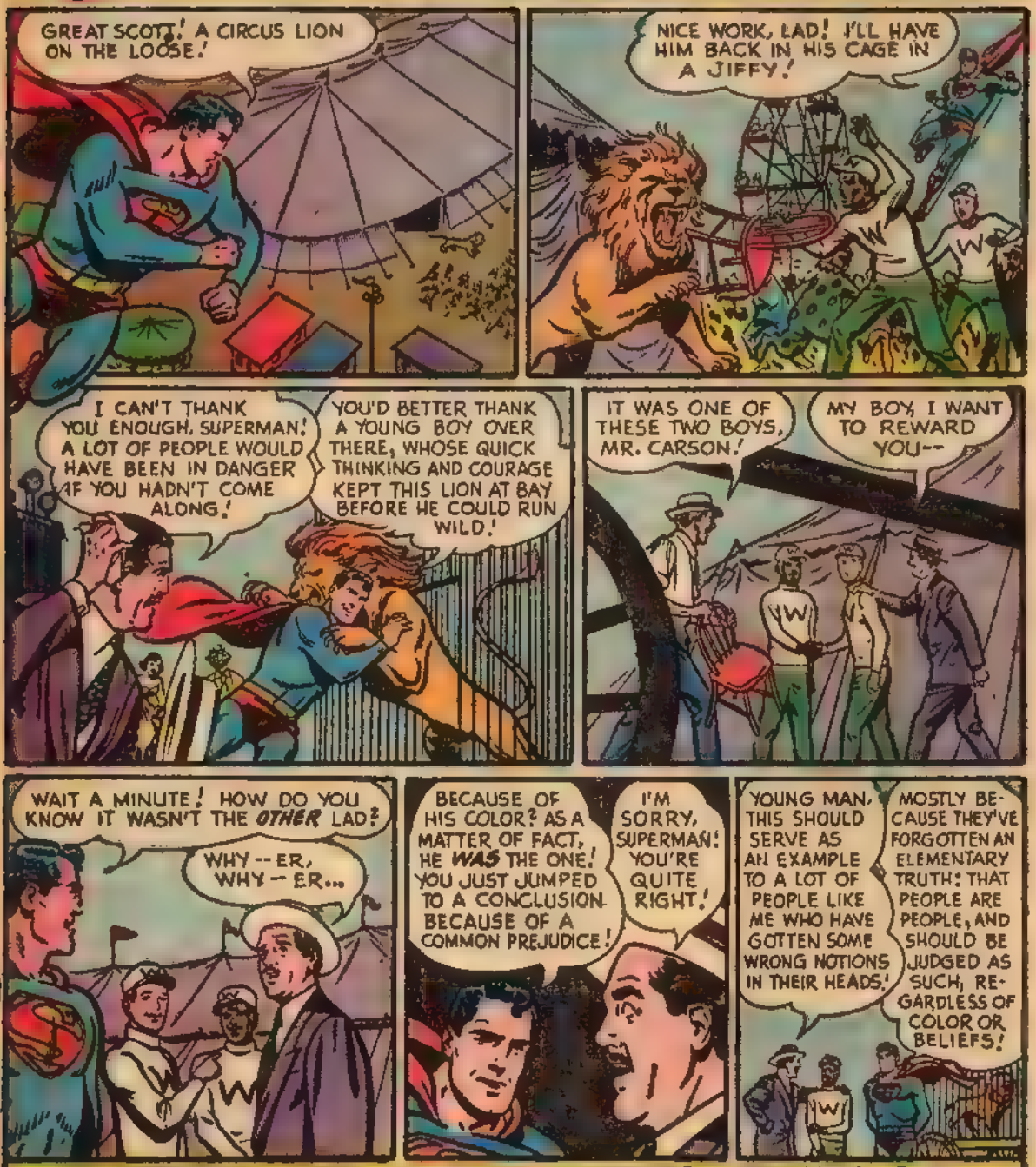
90 to 100—You're as bright as a supernova!

75 to 90—You're as bright as Sirius!

60 to 75—You're as bright as the full moon!

0 to 60—You're as bright as the sun during a total eclipse!

SUPERMAN says: "PEOPLE are PEOPLE!"

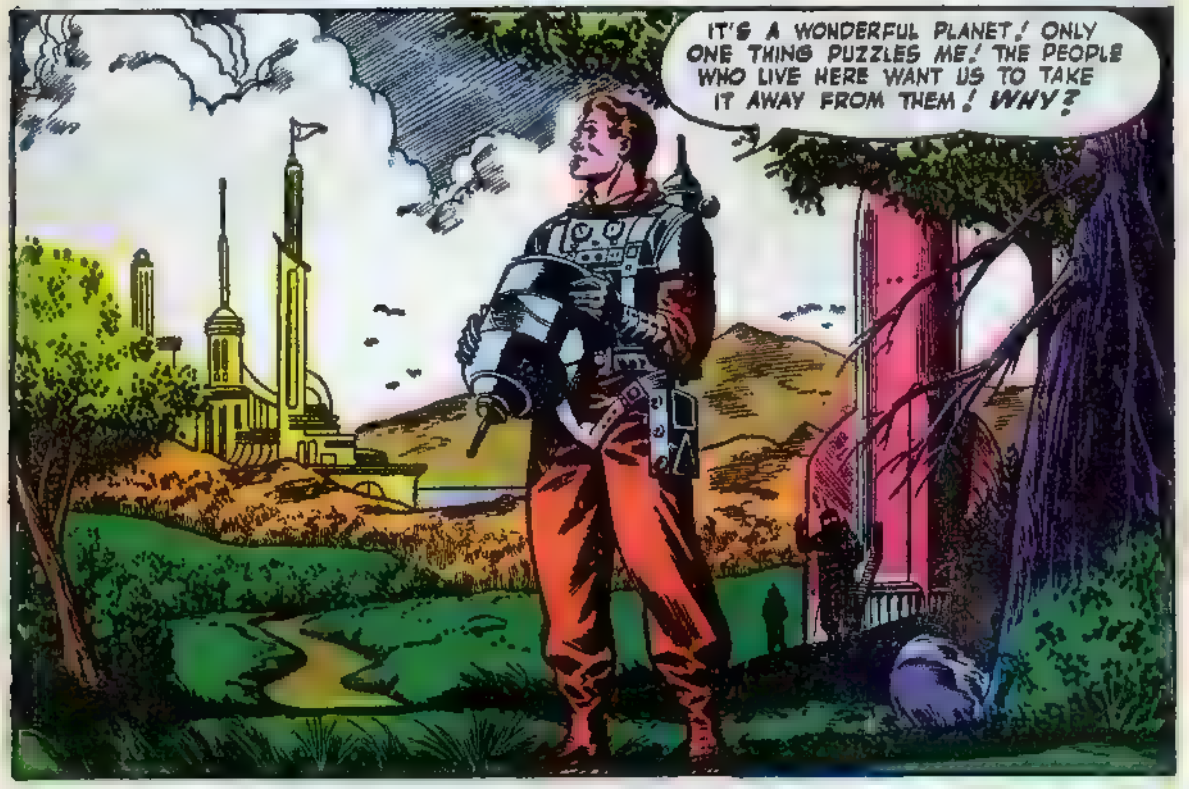

GREAT SCOTT! A CIRCUS LION ON THE LOOSE!
NICE WORK, LAD! I'LL HAVE HIM BACK IN HIS CAGE IN A JIFFY!
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, SUPERMAN! A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN DANGER IF YOU HADN'T COME ALONG!
YOU'D BETTER THANK A YOUNG BOY OVER THERE, WHOSE QUICK THINKING AND COURAGE KEPT THIS LION AT BAY BEFORE HE COULD RUN WILD!
IT WAS ONE OF THESE TWO BOYS, MR. CARSON!
MY BOY, I WANT TO REWARD YOU--
WAIT A MINUTE! HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WASN'T THE OTHER LAD?
WHY--ER, WHY--ER...
BECAUSE OF HIS COLOR? AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE WAS THE ONE! YOU JUST JUMPED TO A CONCLUSION BECAUSE OF A COMMON PREJUDICE!
I'M SORRY, SUPERMAN! YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT!
YOUNG MAN, THIS SHOULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO HAVE GOTTEN SOME WRONG NOTIONS IN THEIR HEADS!
MOSTLY BECAUSE THEY'VE FORGOTTEN AN ELEMENTARY TRUTH: THAT PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE, AND SHOULD BE JUDGED AS SUCH, REGARDLESS OF COLOR OR BELIEFS!

BROTHERHOOD WEEK IS BEING OBSERVED FEBRUARY 15-22... BUT THE IDEAS BEHIND IT SHOULD BE OBSERVED ALL YEAR.

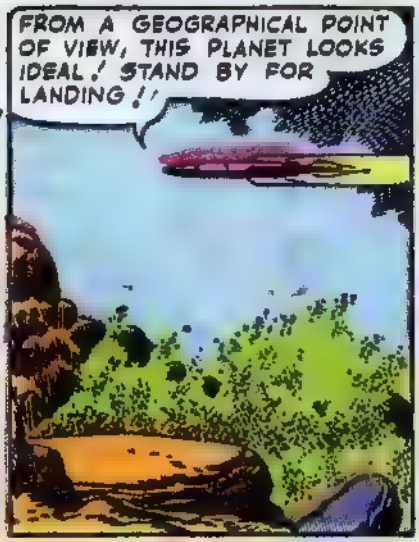
THIS PAGE IS PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH LEADING NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS.

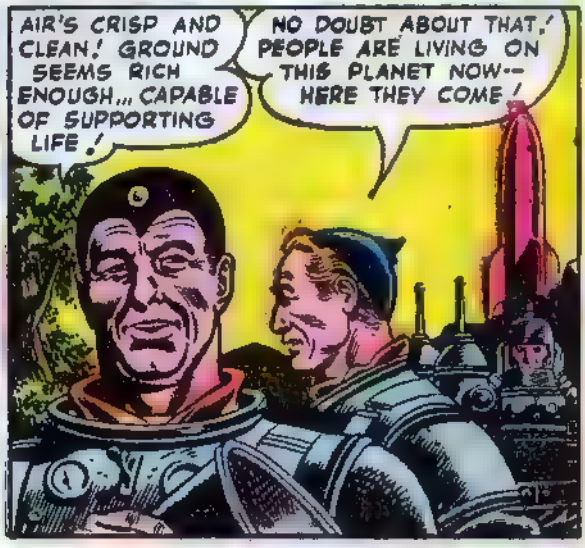
"The PLANET NOBODY WANTED!"

AS THE TIDE OF INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATION ROLLS ONWARD TO THE STARS, EARTH SEEKS NEW WORLDS TO HOUSE ITS TEEMING BILLIONS OF PEOPLE! THUS, WHEN A HABITABLE PLANET IS DISCOVERED, THERE IS A FRANTIC RACE ACROSS SPACE TO BE THE FIRST TO TAKE IT OVER! BUT OF ALL THE WORLDS EARTHMEN TRIED TO COLONIZE, NONE WAS MORE UNUSUAL THAN--

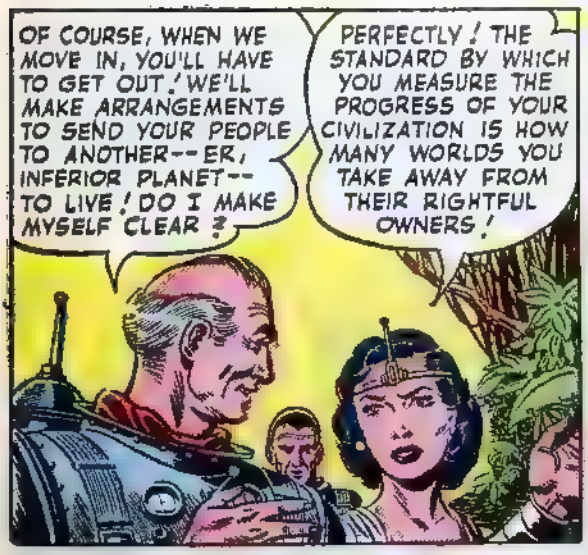


INTER-PLANETARY SPACESHIP GUARDIAN III IS JUST ONE OF HUNDREDS THAT PLY THE STARLANES, SEEKING HABITABLE NEW WORLDS FOR EARTH'S OVER-CROWDED CIVILI-ZATION...

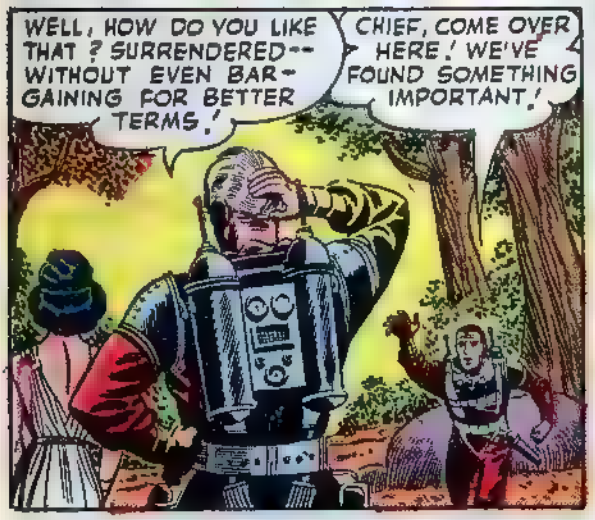


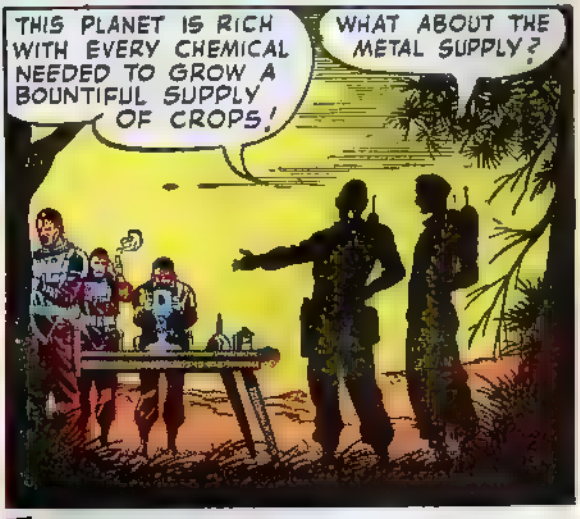

AIR'S CRISP AND CLEAN! GROUND SEEMS RICH ENOUGH... CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING LIFE!
NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT! PEOPLE ARE LIVING ON THIS PLANET NOW-- HERE THEY COME!

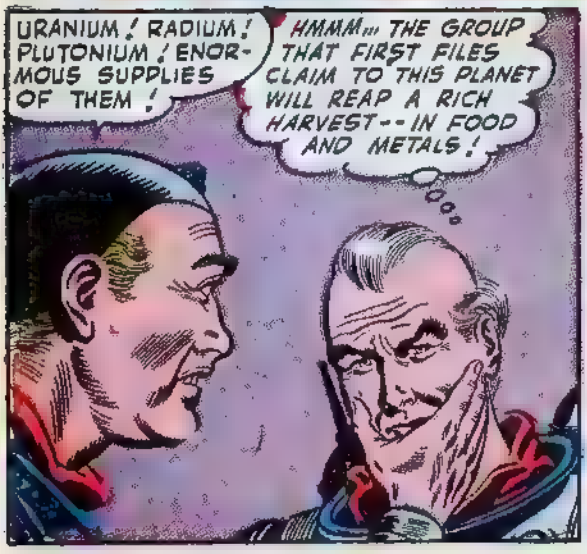
THEY APPEAR FRIENDLY! LET'S PUT A TRANSLATOR ON ONE OF THEM AND TELL HIM WHY WE'RE HERE!
WATCH HOW THEIR FRIENDLY EXPRESSIONS CHANGE WHEN THEY FIND OUT!
WE COME FROM A PLANET OF THE SUN SOL! WE NEED LIVING ROOM FOR OUR PEOPLE! WE ARE GOING TO COLONIZE YOUR PLANET!
NO! NO! YOU MUSTN'T DO THAT!
HERE--LET ME HANDLE THIS! YOU'RE TOO GENTLE WITH THE LADIES! GOT TO ACT TOUGH AND MAKE 'EM UNDERSTAND WE MEAN BUSINESS!
I'M JOHN SLEAMER OF INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATIONS! OUR PLANET EARTH IS OVERCROWDED! WE NEED SPACE! WE TAKE IT! ANYBODY THAT STOPS US--GETS HURT!
"WHEN WAR WAS PERMANENTLY OUTLAWED, EARTH'S BILLIONS OF PEOPLE INCREASED TOO FAST FOR OUR LIMITED LIVING AREA! SO WE HAD TO LOOK TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN SPACE..."
THE MOON'S A DEAD SATELLITE, ALL RIGHT! WE BETTER MOVE ON TO VENUS AND MARS--AND HOPE THAT THEY CAN SUPPORT LIFE!
"VENUS WAS TOO RAINY! MARS WAS TOO HOT! STILL WE MANAGED TO GET SMALL COLONIES GOING THERE! THEN WE LOOKED TOWARD THE DISTANT STARS..."

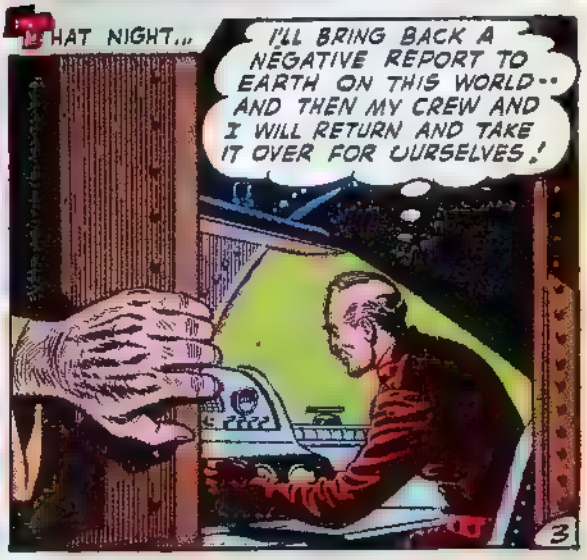

OF COURSE, WHEN WE MOVE IN, YOU'LL HAVE TO GET OUT, WE'LL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO SEND YOUR PEOPLE TO ANOTHER--ER, INFERIOR PLANET--TO LIVE! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
PERFECTLY! THE STANDARD BY WHICH YOU MEASURE THE PROGRESS OF YOUR CIVILIZATION IS HOW MANY WORLDS YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS!

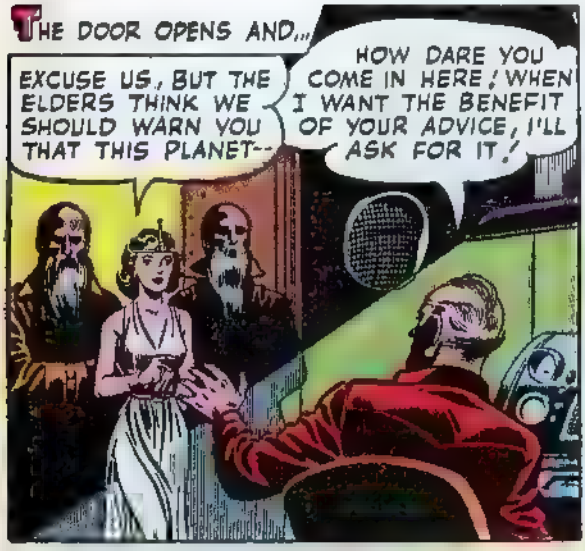
PLEASE--NO DRAMATICS! DO WE MOVE IN PEACEABLY--OR DO I SUMMON OUR SPACE-CRUISERS TO BLAST YOU OUT?
THERE WON'T BE ANY NEED FOR THAT! WE'LL BE GLAD TO GET OUT AND MAKE ROOM FOR YOU!

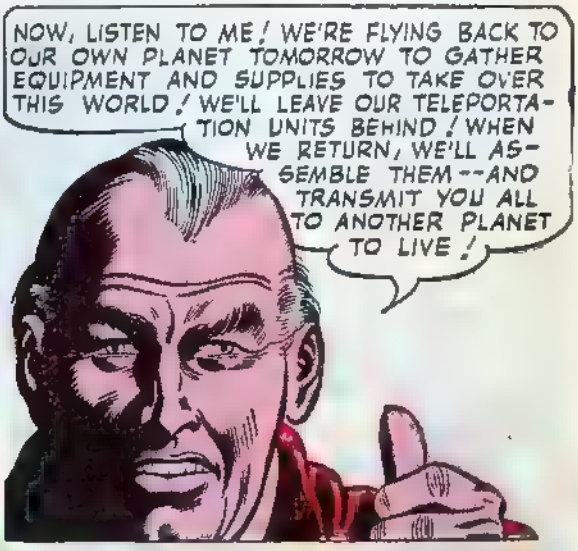

WELL, HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? SURRENDERED--WITHOUT EVEN BARGAINING FOR BETTER TERMS!
CHIEF, COME OVER HERE! WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING IMPORTANT!

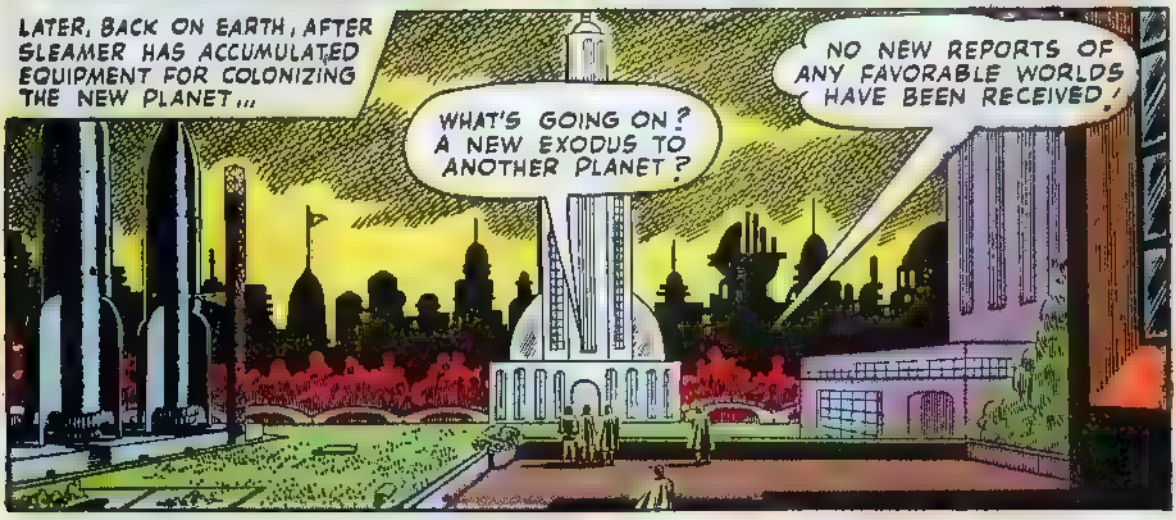

THIS PLANET IS RICH WITH EVERY CHEMICAL NEEDED TO GROW A BOUNTIFUL SUPPLY OF CROPS!
WHAT ABOUT THE METAL SUPPLY?


URANIUM! RADIUM! PLUTONIUM! ENORMOUS SUPPLIES OF THEM!
HMMM... THE GROUP THAT FIRST FILES CLAIM TO THIS PLANET WILL REAP A RICH HARVEST--IN FOOD AND METALS!


THAT NIGHT...
I'LL BRING BACK A NEGATIVE REPORT TO EARTH ON THIS WORLD--AND THEN MY CREW AND I WILL RETURN AND TAKE IT OVER FOR OURSELVES!
3


THE DOOR OPENS AND...
EXCUSE US, BUT THE ELDERS THINK WE SHOULD WARN YOU THAT THIS PLANET--
HOW DARE YOU COME IN HERE! WHEN I WANT THE BENEFIT OF YOUR ADVICE, I'LL ASK FOR IT!


NOW, LISTEN TO ME! WE'RE FLYING BACK TO OUR OWN PLANET TOMORROW TO GATHER EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO TAKE OVER THIS WORLD! WE'LL LEAVE OUR TELEPORTATION UNITS BEHIND! WHEN WE RETURN, WE'LL ASSEMBLE THEM--AND TRANSMIT YOU ALL TO ANOTHER PLANET TO LIVE!

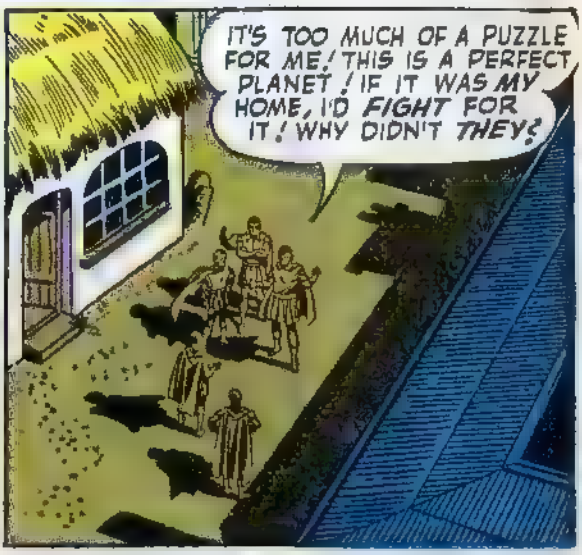

LATER, BACK ON EARTH, AFTER SLEAMER HAS ACCUMULATED EQUIPMENT FOR COLONIZING THE NEW PLANET...
WHAT'S GOING ON? A NEW EXODUS TO ANOTHER PLANET?
NO NEW REPORTS OF ANY FAVORABLE WORLDS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED!

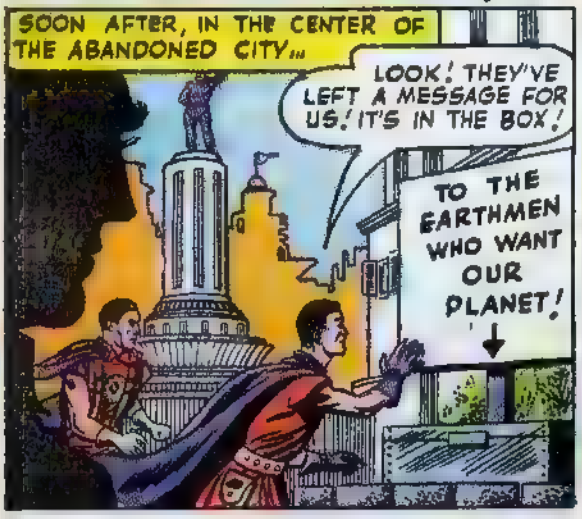
WHAT'S UP, SLEAMER? YOU'RE NOT HOLDING OUT ON ANY PROMISING PLANETARY DISCOVERIES, ARE YOU?
HA, HA! YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT!

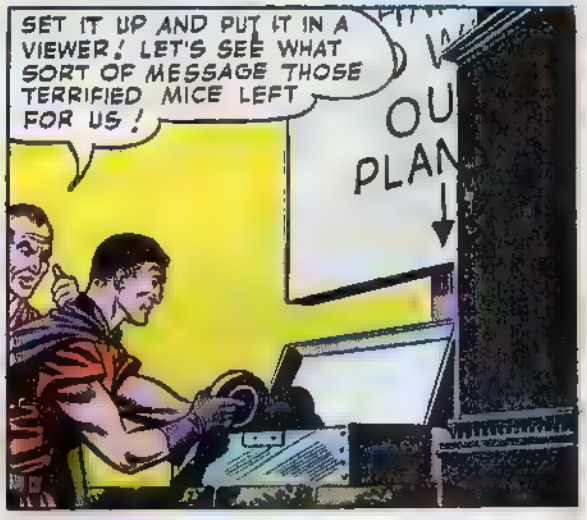
DAYS LATER, THE FASTER-THAN-LIGHT SHIPS REACH THE NEW PLANET...

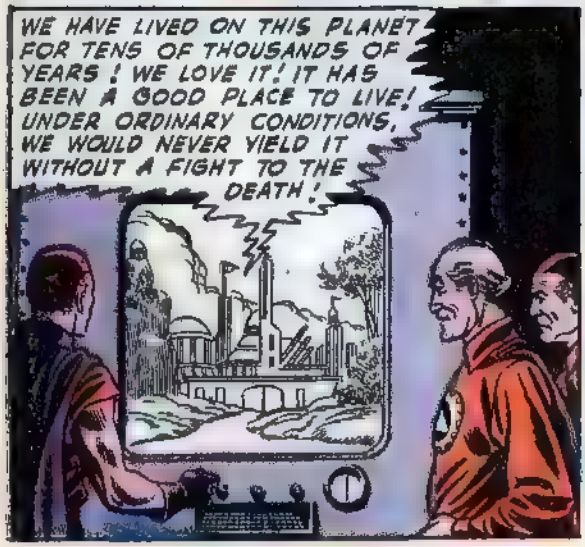
THE PLANET IS DESERTED! EVERYONE IS GONE! WHY?

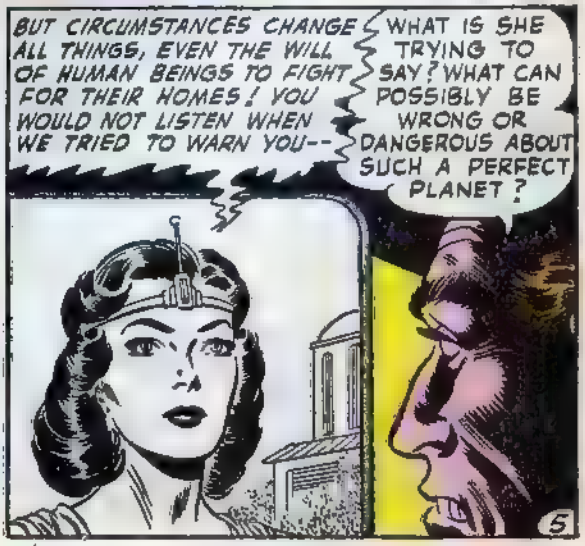
SCARED MICE, THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE! THEY DIDN'T TRUST US-- SO THEY SET UP THE TELEPORTATION EQUIPMENT THEMSELVES, AND FLED TO THE PLANET WE PICKED OUT FOR THEM!

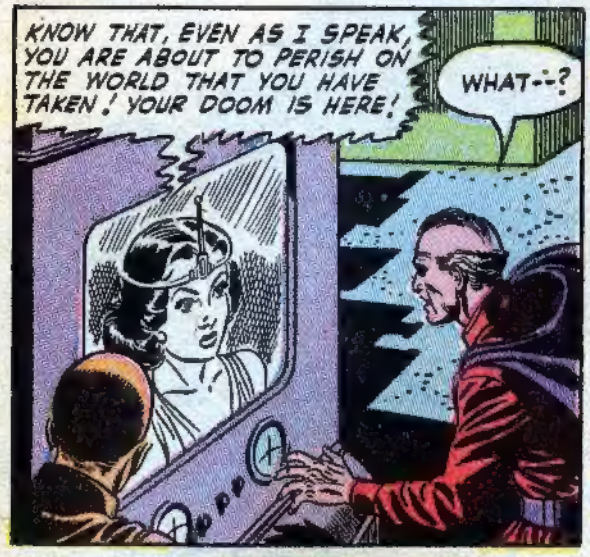

IT'S TOO MUCH OF A PUZZLE FOR ME! THIS IS A PERFECT PLANET! IF IT WAS MY HOME, I'D FIGHT FOR IT! WHY DIDN'T THEY?


SOON AFTER, IN THE CENTER OF THE ABANDONED CITY...
LOOK! THEY'VE LEFT A MESSAGE FOR US! IT'S IN THE BOX!
TO THE EARTHMEN WHO WANT OUR PLANET!


SET IT UP AND PUT IT IN A VIEWER! LET'S SEE WHAT SORT OF MESSAGE THOSE TERRIFIED MICE LEFT FOR US!


WE HAVE LIVED ON THIS PLANET FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS! WE LOVE IT! IT HAS BEEN A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE! UNDER ORDINARY CONDITIONS, WE WOULD NEVER YIELD IT WITHOUT A FIGHT TO THE DEATH!

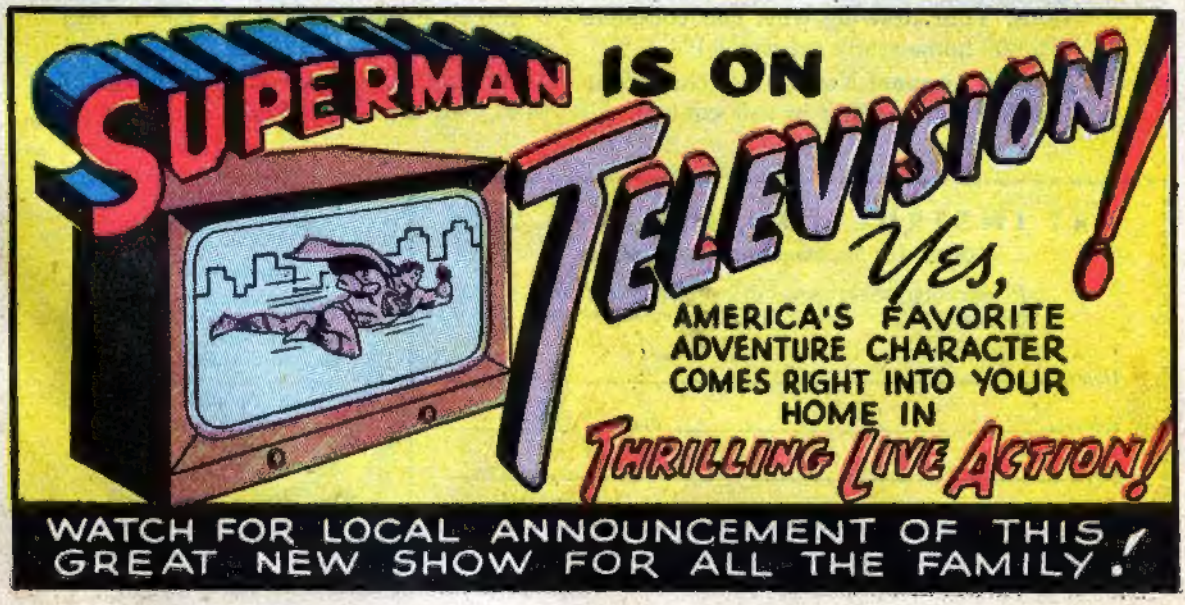

BUT CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE ALL THINGS, EVEN THE WILL OF HUMAN BEINGS TO FIGHT FOR THEIR HOMES! YOU WOULD NOT LISTEN WHEN WE TRIED TO WARN YOU--
WHAT IS SHE TRYING TO SAY? WHAT CAN POSSIBLY BE WRONG OR DANGEROUS ABOUT SUCH A PERFECT PLANET?


KNOW THAT, EVEN AS I SPEAK, YOU ARE ABOUT TO PERISH ON THE WORLD THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN! YOUR DOOM IS HERE!
WHAT--?

THEY'VE BOOBY-TRAPPED THIS PLANET! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE--

NO! IT'S TOO LATE! LOOK!

THEIR SUN! IT'S-- EXPLODING! THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE TRYING TO TELL US! IT'LL BURN US TO A CINDER IN A SPLIT SECOND... AAAGGHHH!
The End
6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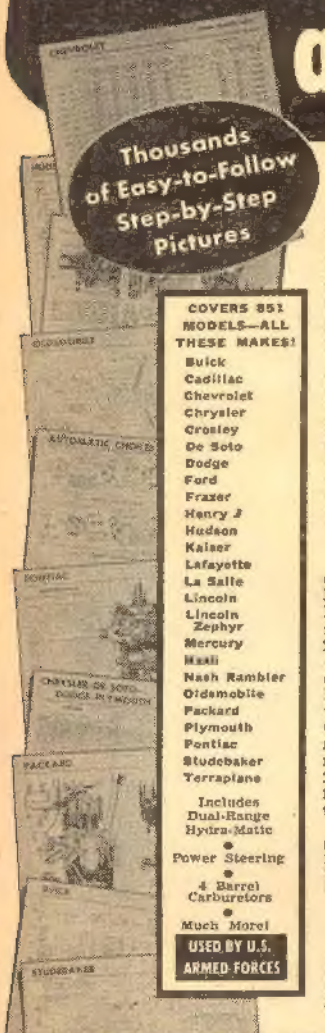

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